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NEW YORK AND PARIS FASHIONS.

FOR DECEMBER.

(From our Fashion Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, December, 1867.

There is a curious rage just now for fashion, for gossip about fashions, and gossip about fashionable people. All the scraps of information that can be gleaned from any source whatever, are eagerly caught at and retailed with additions and exaggerations, not only in the parlor and the boudoir but in the columns of the press of the country.

Women never guilty of an idea, devoured with *ennui* but occupying a certain social position, find themselves all at once lifted into an importance of which they had not so much as dreamed, their dress, habits and entertainments made the subjects of "court" paragraphs, and even the colors of the horses which draw them, and the Afghans which protect them in their daily drives made the texts for outbursts of admiring Jenkinsonian observations.

This magnifying of society *par excellence*, its accessories and surroundings, does not come from the members of its interior circles: they become too wearied of its monotony to find in it material for lively or brilliant descriptive. Fashionable news is, therefore, principally "done" by hungry penny-a-liners, who never hardly saw the interior of a grand drawing room, and whose highly colored sketches of weddings, entertainments, receptions and *soirees* are all drawn from observations made at street corners, through open windows or dropped from the lips of chance acquaintances. Well, this method of treatment undoubtedly has its advantages—it leaves pretty much everything to the imagination of the writer, who is sure to do infinitely more than justice to the facts. In his eyes all brides are beautiful, all women young, all diamonds real, all lace genuine old "Point," all that glitters pure gold, or at any rate if they are not he strives to make every one else think so!

It is said that the most distinguished fashion writer of Paris is an old woman, who lives in an attic, smokes a short pipe, wears a yellow bandana round her head, and signs herself "Countess."

It has also passed into a proverb that the most successful delineators of certain phases of joy or sorrow are those who never experienced either in the forms which they so eloquently depict.

The daily life of wealthy people in a large city is indeed, to a looker on, wonderfully inwith gs. It is a succession of *fetes*—one soothingly long and never-ending holiday. The cleanliness of the streets in which they live, and where the sunshine loves to linger; the amplitude and conveniences of their dwellings; the carriages and horses always at command; the abundant means for the gratification of their wishes, even the habitual wearing of costly clothes, all lend fascination to eyes forced to dwell mainly on the narrow, the crude, and the unbeautified, and to minds debarred by the polarities of weariness, torturing cares, maladies, heartachings, and heart burnings, starvation of the heart in the midst of bodily plenty, and even non-appreciation of the very goods, the possession of which is the source of such envy. I know a lady whose magnificent equipage is the great trial of her life. She loves to walk, but is obliged to ride for the sake of exercising her horses, and so the poor lady goes out without expecting every instant that an accident will occur which will break her neck.

Another occupant of a brown stone mansion, a born housekeeper, dare not enter her own kitchen, except to give orders, because it is the conceded territory of her imperious servants, and actually lives in a state of longing to explore her own closets and concoct, without the knowledge of her argus-eyed and stylish domestics, some of the delicacies which the members as the pride of her mother and the table treats of her girlhood.

FOREIGN FASHIONS.

In addition to the prominence given to fashions and fashion gossip by existing journals, further evidence, if any were needed, of the new importance attached to the subject is to be found in the number of periodicals recently started, all of which centralize fashions as their one point of interest and attraction.

Among them all, however, there is not one that really meets the want that undoubtedly exists for a high-toned lady's newspaper. The *Boudoir* was simply an advertising sheet, poorly imitating in appearance the English *Queen*, some of whose articles it copied, but with the exception of its puffs, having no claim to originality of its own.

The new *Bazar* is a still more audacious effort to foist a mere reproduction of a foreign journal upon the good taste of the American public. With the exception of a few stories and sketches and its local business puffs, it is a simple bodily transfer of the German *Bazar*, a cheap paper for poor Berlin dressmakers with its bewildering pattern sheet, containing fifty tangled patterns each week, crossed and re-crossed like the web of fate and quite as difficult to unravel, but about as valuable as a Chinese puzzle to the majority of American women.

So eminent a firm as the Harpers ought to have done better for their own reputation and that of the Empire City than to issue a paper for which there is a demand from intelligent women from all parts of the country, for an organ of their views, sentiments, feelings, opinions, habits, and those of good society generally. As has been stated, even the fashion plates, which fill the most space to subjects "interesting the ladies" as they are called, confine themselves outside of mere details of fashion to paragraphs and sensational items of soirees and weddings, or if they venture on an editorial, on a subject of social interest, try above all things to make it "pretty," and relating in some way to matrimony, the only topic, besides dress, they consider likely to interest the female mind. All this is humiliating and renders such journals distasteful rather than otherwise to the thinking part of American women, and wanting in one thing they know not what, to all who possess a reasonable amount of sense, taste and appreciation. The American woman's newspaper of the future must be different from this. It must be independent in its ideas of dress and fashion, will not adopt a good model but equally ready to denounce a bad one; it will not truckle to millinees and dry-goods dealers, but the representative of the American household and of the science of American social life. It must have fixed opinions and be ready to fight for the expression of them. If there is one thing more than another for which the American women have a faculty, it is having a "mind of their own" upon all sorts of subjects and liking to stick to people's "notions of fit."

It should teach the art of house-furnishing as well as house-keeping how to make clothing as well as how to wear it, how to cook in addition to what to cook, and how to dignify home life and social life by earnest purpose and resolute endeavor.

No one disputes French taste nor German either, according to the Harpers, but there is something better than taste, which should never be sacrificed to it, and that is individuality. American women are quite as capable of exercising this function as any others, and there is growing intelligence among the volumes to be used as mere blocks for the exhibition of the second and third class finery of European capitals.

THE BALL SEASON.

The season of balls and sociables has commenced early and with great activity. The "Atlantic," the most extensive of Terpsichorean Associations, and which aspires to be a sort of American Almacks, meets at Delmonico's fortnightly. The "Imperial" and the "Fifth Avenue" at the residences of the members fortnightly, also. Refreshments are served upon these occasions, and it was remarked with great disgust, that at a very stylish mansion recently, where a grand consexatory opened upon the drawing-room, the lemonade was made with brown sugar.

The feature of the dress at these reunions is one that has heretofore been remarked of young American women, and that is the almost universal adoption of the *decollete* or low-necked style.

Heretofore, low-necks have been the exception; now, they are the rule, and covering, where it is used seems to be employed only to cover the want of physical charms, not the charms themselves.

Beads and French jewelry are in greater vogue than ever. Necklaces of pearls with festoons and pendants, necklaces of spiral and with magnificent lockets attached and chains falling upon the bosom in ten to fifteen fine strands, are among the ornaments which have taken the place of the modest lace tucker of the puffed waist of past seasons. It must be conceded, however, that but for the prevalence of a certain thinness of arm and general contour, the present style of dress is extremely favorable to the delicate beauty of young, highly bred American women. The gored and trained skirts, almost *sans* crinoline, cling with infinite grace to the slender figures, and are managed with such ease, skill and grace, as many a young lady might envy. Then the hair combed up from the temples, coiled, slightly frizzed and confined by classic bands, shows the small ears, the clearly cut profile, the pure arch of the throat, and other distinctive characteristics of American beauty, which is more remarkable for clearness and delicacy of outline, than splendor of coloring.

An exception to the rule, however, was observed in the case of a brilliant blonde the other evening, whose toilette was so exceedingly becoming as to deserve notice. It consisted of white Irish poplin, cut upon the severest *empire* model, and trimmed with white point *applique* lace. The body was very low and square, the sleeves, a mere band over a puffing and frill of lace. A pearl necklace deeply festooned, strings of pearls arranged as bands in the light, profuse hair, and ropes of pearls festooned as a girdle about the waist, constituted the ornaments.

Pure white toilettes and very light transparent fabrics are now rarely seen in a ball room, and are consequently very *distingue*. A few years ago thin tarlatane or tulle dresses could be made up and trimmed at almost nominal cost, and were, therefore, worn almost universally by young ladies, to whom they are the most becoming of costumes, and who found it easy to wholly or partially renew them as often as required.

With the advance in prices, however, and especially in trimmings and labor, a thin dress, fragile as it is, has become almost as costly as a silk, and it is therefore found much more economical to purchase one or two light silks each season, and with others that can be remodelled form a wardrobe always available, and that can be turned to account in other directions.

It is said that the Princess of Wales never buys a new dress without special reference to its "making over" qualities, and it is a fact that ladies of the highest class are much more apt to be thrifty and study economy in their dress and the management of their households than those of the lowest.

WINTER CLOAKS.

The most objectionable feature of the new winter cloaks is the waste of costly material. The designs are restricted in length and amplitude, but they are absurdly cut in and notched out in a tricky, fanciful way, which is neither in keeping with the heavy fabrics of which our winter garments are composed, nor with its purposes of warmth and usefulness.

Some of the most fashionable cloaks are only short sacs, wastefully cut out in sharp spikes or square teeta, with additional waste in long sash ends, which extend below the edge of the garment at the sides, and serve no purpose, either of use or beauty.

Others are cut short at the back and long in front; and still others gashed out at the sides, without any apparent motive, except to afford another evidence of the prevalent cloak lunacy.

The materials used for these abortive and mis-shaped garments are, on the contrary, beautiful. The cloths are like velvets and even more attractive, with a rather thicker pile and richer shades of coloring. The finer broad cloths, used last year, never were good style, and this year are not worn at all, except by those who have them and who expect a new cloak to last more than one season.

It is less used as an outside and more in conjunction with silk embroidery upon black silk dresses than has been the case for some years. With it marvelous effects are produced upon rich black toilettes. Tunics are simulated, and more ornamented, the lines spreading out in sheafs or fanshapes upon the train of the skirt.

Upon cloaks, cordeliers are preferred, satin pipings, or embroidery executed with the Grecian or Arabic designs.

A new "shawl paletot" of black velvet is a graceful exception to the generally small and fantastic rule. It descends deep upon the back, in a rounded form, and is finished with a black lace flounce, surmounted by three rows of rich, fine gimp or *passementerie*, which follow the outline of the shawl, leaving spaces between.

Cloaks trimmed and lined with fur are quite a new feature of the season, and are the most comfortable as well as the most distinguished of all the winter garments.

The "Muscovite" is of dark brown cloth, velvet finished, lined with fur of mink, and the elegant black velvet sets, paletot, cloak and hat complete are lined with grey Persiana and trimmed with a deep border of Chinchilla.

THE LATEST BONNETS.

It has already been announced that little or no variation in size is to be expected in bonnets for this season, nor indeed for six months at least to come. The latest Parisian arrivals are *petite* as ever, and these will give the tone to our enterprising manufacturers, who are already engaged upon the styles for the spring season.

A charming little bonnet, just imported, is of *moire antique* velvet, trimmed with a wide ruche, tied at the back, and fastened upon the front and at the back with a white rose in bronzed Bismarck leaves, mauve strings.

Another is of blue satin, trimmed round with a band of short, curling, white ostrich feathers. Below this band, at the back, is a little scarf of white blonde, which is brought round to the front and fastened under the chin.

A pretty little *Marie Stuart* cap is turned upon the side, and finished with a silver cord on the upper edge. A "mantilla veil" is attached to the back and fastened under the chin. A humming bird, with plume, forms the only ornament.

Dainty little evening and opera bonnets are made of white gimpure lace and trimmed with *tufts of blue feathers* or small velvet flowers with gold centers.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Some pretty novelties for holiday gifts are making their appearance in jewelry and fancy goods. Stevenson & Co., a new Union Square firm, are winning a unique reputation for the production of novel and original designs, set off by rare and most beautiful workmanship.

Lockets consisting of a female head, the Goddess Isis, for example, beautifully engraved upon amethyst and surrounded with Egyptian emblems are new and greatly admired. There are also "diamond" lockets, of gold, with monograms in fine diamond work, or grecian enamel, and lockets of enamel with a fly, a bee, or a monogram, formed of small brilliants in the centre. These lockets are attached to "spiral" necklaces or to gold chains, with many strands, or to ornamental chains composed of small twisted chains and Venetian coins suspended between.

Pink and white coral have taken the place of jet, and are arranged in bracelets, ornaments with leaves of fine diamonds upon gold stems, twisted about the natural branches.

New studs for gentlemen are very small and finer they represent little stars or small plain buttons, with chased rose centres, and are fastened into eyelets with small spiral springs, which "hold" better than the old fashioned method. The latest style consists of small pearls like buttons, set in gold, with gold threads crossing the centre, in imitation of sewing. The idea is very simple but very pretty. This design is made in wrist links, collar buttons and shirt studs, and the set altogether, forms a handsome present for a gentleman.

JENNIE JUNE.

A NEW FINANCIAL SCHEME.

Senator Sherman's Scheme.

Senator Sherman has prepared a financial bill, which he will offer this week. This is intended to cover the whole ground of bonds and currency. It provides for a six per cent. bond, to run thirty years, principal and interest payable in coin, at the pleasure of the Government, after ten years. Of the interest, five per cent. is to be paid to the holder, and one per cent. retained in lieu of National and State taxes. The half of the one per cent. is to be paid to the States in proportion to population, and the other half to create a sinking fund for the payment of the principal of the loan. The holders of legal-tender notes are to have the right to convert them into these bonds, and afterward convert the bonds into legal-tender notes, as the currency may be needed. Holders of five-twenties, after the expiration of the first five years, are to be required to fund for the ten bonds under the penalty of having interest stopped. This measure, it is believed, will deprive the Secretary of the Treasury of very nearly all discretionary power, and, with some amendments pending, will make the bill ready to be carried in the Treasury. It is believed it will give general satisfaction to the members of both Houses. The provisions permitting the conversion of the bonds into greenbacks will satisfy the capitalists, who will favor it partially in the hope of getting in the Bonds. Butler's plan has but few friends in the Senate.

England's March Into Abyssinia.

England's march into Abyssinia has been commenced, and some idea of the immense expense of the expedition can be gained from the first step. The entire force which has left India is 12,000 effectives, 8,000 of which are Indian natives. Armstrong batteries, elephant carriages, mountain trains, Snider rifles, and all the etcetera of battle are furnished in profusion. More than 10,000 followers will of course suck upon the substance of the army. More than 25,000 mules have been collected from India, Bagdad, Persia, Turkey and Syria, and it is said that these will all prove useless in the hard travel; so many horses are also taken along; the expenditure of the commissariat's department alone is half a million dollars per month, and the cost of the whole is two million pounds. Sailing vessels on an average get five dollars per ton per month, and the government must guarantee every vessel six months employment. The total cost of the expedition is estimated roughly at between five and six million pounds. Harrowing as this is to the British tax-payer's feelings, he must pay and bear it in silence, to be rewarded in the dim future by the announcement that Abyssinia is an English colony. But the sacrifice of men and money must be tremendous, before any such victory as could lead to the colonization of King Theodore's dominions can be gained.

More of the Battle of Mentana.

Every detail of the battle of Mentana causes fresh irritation. Naked, barefooted, hungry and badly armed, the young Garibaldians remained firm under the fire of the Chassepots, leaped over heaps of slain to meet the bayonets of the French,—lads of thirteen and fourteen falling covered with wounds and shouting "Viva l' Italia! Viva la Liberta!" "This is what you had to fight with!" said the French, contemptously breaking the cheap, inferior muskets, hardly fit to carry a ball 300 yards. The French general, writing home, exultingly exclaims: "The Chassepot did wonders," and the phrase taken with its associations rankles in the breasts of men who would cry for war at once were they as rash as they are brave. The *Charavari* says there is talk in Rome of canonizing a new Saint Chassepot; and in another quarter it has been suggested that Gen. Failly's memorable sentence should be carved in steel over the tomb of the apostles. M. Chassepot in the meantime is proud of the success of his arm, and the French government are equally satisfied and have given him an order for 100,000 more.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The continued disorganization of the Union, to which the President has so often called the attention of Congress, is yet a subject of profound and painful concern. We may, however, find some relief from that anxiety in the reflection that the painful political situation, although untried by ourselves, is not new in the experience of nations. Political science, perhaps as highly perfected in our own time and country as in any other, has not yet disclosed any means by which civil wars can be absolutely prevented. An enlightened nation, however, with a wise and beneficent Constitution of free government, may diminish their frequency and mitigate their severity by directing all its proceedings in accordance with its fundamental law.

When a civil war has been brought to its close, it is manifestly the first interest and duty of the state to repair the injuries which the war has inflicted, and to secure the benefit of the lessons it teaches as fully and speedily as possible. This duty was, upon the termination of the rebellion, promptly accepted, not only by the executive department, but by the insurrectionary States themselves, and restoration, in the first moment of peace, was believed to be as easy and certain as it was indispensable. The expectations, however, then so reasonably and confidently entertained, were disappointed by legislation from which I felt constrained, by my obligations to the Constitution, to withhold my assent.

It is therefore a source of profound regret that, in complying with the obligations imposed upon the President by the Constitution, to give to Congress, from time to time, information of the state of the Union, I am unable to communicate any definite adjustment, satisfactory to the American people, of the questions which, since the close of the rebellion, have agitated the public mind. On the contrary, candor compels me to declare that at this time there is no Union as that term was understood the term, and as they meant it to be understood by us. The Union which they established can exist only where all the States are represented in both Houses of Congress, where one State is as free as another to regulate its internal concerns according to its own will; and where the laws of the central Government, strictly confined to national jurisdiction, apply with equal force to all the people of every section. That such is not the present "state of the Union" is a melancholy fact, and we all must acknowledge that the restoration of the States to their proper legal relations with the Federal Government and with one another according to the terms of the original compact, would be the greatest temporal blessing which God in His kindest Providence could bestow upon this nation. It becomes our imperative duty to consider whether or not it is impossible to effect this most desirable consummation.

The Union and the Constitution are inseparable. As long as one is obeyed by all parties, the other will be preserved, and if one is destroyed both must perish together. The construction of the Constitution will be followed by other and still greater calamities. It was ordained not only to form a more perfect Union between the States, but to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." Nothing but implicit obedience to its requirements in all parts of the country will accomplish its great objects. Without that obedience, we can look forward only to continual outrages upon individual rights, incessant breaches of the public peace, national weakness, financial dishonor, a total loss of moral principle, the general prostration of morals, and the final extinction of popular freedom. To save our country from evils so appalling as these, we should renew our efforts again and again.

To me the process of restoration seems perfectly plain and simple. It consists merely in a faithful application of the Constitution and laws. Acting within their limits, I am not now obstructed or opposed by physical force. There is no military or other necessity, real or pretended, which can prevent obedience to the Constitution, either North or South. All the rights and all the obligations of States and individuals can be protected and enforced by means perfectly consistent with the fundamental law. The Courts may be everywhere opened, and, if opened, their process would be instantly executed. Offenses against the laws can be prevented by the proper judicial authorities, in a manner entirely practical and legal. There is, therefore, no reason why the Constitution should not be obeyed, unless those who are charged with the duty of its execution are unwilling to perform it. If we cannot suppose that such unwillingness exists, we may confidently look for the cheerful and hearty support of those who love and believe in it, at least the fidelity of public servants who act under solemn obligations and commands which they dare not disobey.

The Constitutional duty is not the only one which requires the States to be restored. There is another consideration which, though of minor importance, is of great weight. On the 22d day of July, 1861, Congress declared, by an almost unanimous vote, that the object of the war should be conducted solely for the purpose of preserving the Union, and maintaining the supremacy of the Federal Constitution and laws, without impairing the dignity, equality, and rights of the States or of individuals, and that when this was done the war should cease. I do not say that this declaration is personally binding on those who joined in making it, any more than individual members of Congress are personally bound by the public debt created under a law for which they voted. But it was a solemn, public, official pledge of the National honor, and I cannot imagine upon what grounds the repudiation of it can be justified. It was plainly made in the belief that it would be the most powerful conservator. I have, therefore, heretofore urged upon your attention the great danger "to be apprehended from an untimely extension of the elective franchise to any new class in our country, especially when the large majorities of that class, in wielding the power thus placed in their hands, cannot be expected correctly to comprehend the duties and responsibilities which pertain to suffrage. Yesterday, as it were, four millions of persons were held in a condition of slavery that had existed for generations; to-day they are freemen, and are assumed by law to be citizens. It cannot be presumed, from their previous condition of servitude that, as a class, they are as well informed as to the nature of our Government as the intelligent foreigner who makes our land the home of his choice. In the case of the latter, neither a residence of five years, and the knowledge of our institutions which it gives, nor attachment to the principles of the Constitution, are the only conditions upon which he can be admitted to citizenship. He must prove, in addition, a good moral character, and thus give reasonable ground for the belief that he will be faithful to the obligations which he assumes as a citizen of the Republic. Where a people—the source of all political power—speak by their suffrages, through the instrumentality of the ballot-box, it must be carefully guarded against the control of those who are corrupt in principle and enemies of free institutions, for it can only become to our political and social system a safe conductor of a healthy popular sentiment when kept free from demoralizing influences. Controlled, through fraud and usurpation, by the designing, anarchy and despotism must inevitably follow. In the hands of the patriotic and worthy, our Government will be preserved upon the principles of the Constitution inherited from our fathers. It follows, therefore, that in admitting to the ballot-box a new class of voters not qualified for the exercise of the elective franchise, we weaken our system of Government, instead of adding strength and durability." "I yield to no one in the attachment to that rule of general suffrage which distinguishes our policy as a nation. But there is a limit, wisely observed hitherto, which makes the ballot a privilege and a trust, and which requires of some classes a time suitable for probation and preparation. To give it indiscriminately to a class, wholly unprepared, by previous habits and opportunities, to perform the trust which it demands, is to degrade it, and finally to destroy its power, for it may be safely assumed that no political truth is better established than that such indiscriminate and all-embracing extension of popular suffrage must end at last in its overthrow and destruction."

I repeat the expression of my willingness to join in any plan within the scope our constitutional autnority which promises to better the condition of the negroes of the South, by encouraging them in industry, enlightening their minds, improving their morals, and giving protection to their just rights as freedmen. But that a republican form of government shall be guaranteed to all the States; that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without the process of law, and without a judicial warrant, or punished without a fair trial before an impartial jury; that the privilege of *habeas corpus* shall not be denied in time of peace; and that no bill of attainder, shall be passed even as a punishment for individual offenses, are fundamental principles of free government. Without the existence of these principles in the practical operation of the Government, no one can say that he has any guarantee for his life, liberty, or property, for they are the safeguards which the people have thrown around them to protect their rights. The plan of putting the Southern States wholly, and the General Government generally, into the hands of negroes, is proposed at a time peculiarly unpropitious. The foundation has been broken up by civil war. Industry must be reorganized, justice reestablished, public credit maintained, and order brought out of confusion. To accomplish these ends would require all the wisdom and virtue of the greatest men of the most favored institutions originally. I confidently believe that their descendants will be equal to the arduous task before them, but it is worse than useless to expect that negroes will perform it for us. Certainly we ought not to ask this assistance until we despair of our own competency.

The great difference between the two races in physical, mental, and moral characteristics will prevent any amalgamation or fusion of them together in one homogeneous mass. If the inferior obtain the ascendency over the other in the constitution may even come to be considered meritorious. Then the officer be accused of dishonesty, how shall it be made out? Will it be inferred from acts unconnected with public duty, from private history, or from general reputation? Or must the President await the commission of an actual misdemeanor in office? Shall he, in the meantime, risk the character and interests of the nation in the hands of men to whom he cannot give his confidence? Must he forbear his complaint until the mischief is done and cannot be remedied? Must the whole executive service should impel him to anticipate the overt act, must he move at the peril of being tried himself for the offense of slandering his subordinate? In the present circumstances of the country, where the habit of obedience to the civil authority has been broken by the force of official delinquencies of every kind. It is extremely difficult to say where that responsibility should begin, and if it be not left where it has been placed by the Constitution, I fear that just men will admit that the President ought to be entirely relieved from responsibility, if he cannot meet it by reason of restrictions placed by law upon his action.

The unrestricted power of removal from office is a very great one to be trusted even to a magistrate chosen by the general suffrage of the whole people, and accountable directly to them for his conduct. Independently of the insecurity and at some periods of our history, perhaps, has been abused. If it be thought desirable and constitutional that it should be so limited as to make the President merely a common instrument to register the decrees and execute the mandates of others, he ought not to be permitted to act in that capacity before some open tribunal, independent of party politics, ready to investigate the merits of every case, furnished with the means of taking evidence, and bound to render its decisions upon fixed rules. This would guarantee the safety of the accuser when he acts in good faith, and at the same time secure the rights of the other party. I speak from the light and experience of more than four years as the incumbent of the executive office. The present Senate, but it does not seem to me that any legislative body can be so constituted as to insure its fitness for these functions.

It is not the theory of this government that public officers, any more than the people who hold them. They are given merely as a trust for the public benefit, sometimes for a fixed period, sometimes during good behavior, but generally terminable at the pleasure of the appointing power, which represents the collective majesty and speaks the will of the people. The forced retention in office of a single dishonest person may work great injury to the public interests. The danger to the public service comes not from the power to remove, but from the power to appoint. Therefore, it was that the framers of the Constitution left the power of removal unrestricted by legislative control. If the present organization of the Senate gives it a right to reject all appointments which, in its opinion, were not fit to be made. A little reflection on this subject will probably satisfy all who have the good of the country at heart that our best course would be to take the Constitution for our guide, walk in the path marked out by the founders of the Republic, and obey the rules made sacred by the observance of our great predecessors.

The present condition of our finances and circulating mediums one to which your early consideration is invited.

The proportion which the currency of any country should bear to the whole value of the annual products of labor circulated by it is a question upon which political economists have not agreed. Nor can it be controlled by legislation, but must be left to the irrepressible laws which regulate commerce and trade. The circulating medium will more wisely flow to those points where it is in greatest demand. The law of demand and supply is as unerring as that which regulates the tides of the ocean; and indeed controls the tides, has its ebbs and flows throughout the commercial world.

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The Constitution invests the President with authority to decide whether a removal should be made in any given case; the act of Congress declares, in substance, that he shall only *accuse* such as he supposes to be unworthy of their trust. The Constitution makes him sole judge of the offenses; but the statute takes away his jurisdiction, transfers it to the Senate, and leaves him nothing but the obvious and sometimes impracticable duty of becoming a *prosecutor*. The prosecution is to be conducted before the tribunal whose members are not, like him, responsible to the whole people, but to separate constituent bodies, and who may hear his accusation with great disfavor. The Senate is absolutely without rule or precedent for its decision applicable to such a case. Its judgment cannot be anticipated, for it is not governed by any rule. The law does not define what shall be deemed good cause for removal. It is impossible even to conjecture what may or may not be so considered by the Senate. The nature of the subject forbids clear proof. If the charge be incapacity, what evidence will support it? Fidelity to the Constitution may provoke hostility that will manifest itself in a thousand modes not alleged in the articles of accusation, and at some periods of our history, perhaps, has been abused. If it be thought desirable and constitutional that it should be so limited as to make the President merely a common instrument to register the decrees and execute the mandates of others, he ought not to be permitted to act in that capacity before some open tribunal, independent of party politics, ready to investigate the merits of every case, furnished with the means of taking evidence, and bound to render its decisions upon fixed rules. This would guarantee the safety of the accuser when he acts in good faith, and at the same time secure the rights of the other party. I speak from the light and experience of more than four years as the incumbent of the executive office. The present Senate, but it does not seem to me that any legislative body can be so constituted as to insure its fitness for these functions.

It is not the theory of this government that public officers, any more than the people who hold them. They are given merely as a trust for the public benefit, sometimes for a fixed period, sometimes during good behavior, but generally terminable at the pleasure of the appointing power, which represents the collective majesty and speaks the will of the people. The forced retention in office of a single dishonest person may work great injury to the public interests. The danger to the public service comes not from the power to remove, but from the power to appoint. Therefore, it was that the framers of the Constitution left the power of removal unrestricted by legislative control. If the present organization of the Senate gives it a right to reject all appointments which, in its opinion, were not fit to be made. A little reflection on this subject will probably satisfy all who have the good of the country at heart that our best course would be to take the Constitution for our guide, walk in the path marked out by the founders of the Republic, and obey the rules made sacred by the observance of our great predecessors.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1867.

GRANT FOR PRESIDENT.

A meeting in favor of GRANT for President, called by the solid men of New York, was held in that city Wednesday. The signers to the call were such men as ALEXANDER T. STEWART, HAMILTON FISH, WILLIAM B. ASTOR, MOSES TAYLOR, MOSES H. GRINNELL, CHARLES KINGSLAND, CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JAMES BROWN, WM. H. WEBB and many more of that class, who early in 1861 in a large degree constituted the famous "Union Safety Committee." We learn from the *Times*, though the call does not say so, that the idea of some of these gentlemen is to make GRANT "the candidate of the people without regard to party; that as a candidate and a President he is not to be the representative nor to act in the interest of either party to the necessary exclusion of the other." The *Times* seems to question the feasibility of this, and common sense will not recognize it as practicable. The Republican party will have a candidate of their own, and from present appearances GRANT will be their choice. If these gentlemen or any other body of citizens feel disposed to support him, on no-party or other grounds of their own, they certainly are privileged to do so. The movement they have inaugurated is extremely significant as to the direction, depth and breadth of public sentiment. The reasons put forth by those engaged in it are so much in harmony with the feelings which animate the great body of the Republicans, that, although made in the name of no party, it is virtually Republican in all its aims and tendencies.

THANKFUL FOR THE SMALLEST FAVORS.

The Democratic party in these latter days appears to become jubilant over the smallest favors. In our boyhood days this same Democratic party was accustomed to carry Pennsylvania and Ohio by from 5,000 to 40,000 majority, and say nothing about it. But now the reduction of the Republican majority to 3,000 in Ohio, and the election of SHARSWOOD by 922 majority in Pennsylvania, has called forth shouts of applause from the unterrified. VALLANDIGHAM has been toasted and carried upon the shoulders of his admirers in the Buckeye State, and Senator WALLACE's admirers, determined not to be outdone, have been feasting and wining him in Philadelphia. This seems odd at first blush, but when we reflect that all these chronic rebels and office-seekers have been kept at bay for a number of years past, we do not wonder the smell of the savory dishes has made them frantic. But according to an old maxim, there is "many a slip betwixt the cup and the lip." We commiserate these gentlemen who have been for some years feeding upon rebel husks; but these rebel prodigals do not return in the spirit of true penitence, and therefore, for them, no fatted calf can be killed. They come in the spirit of unconquered rebels, and must, therefore, be doomed to another seven years exclusion from all public trusts. If MOSES, for one single act of disobedience, was forbidden to cross Jordan and enter the Promised Land, how much sorer punishment shall years of persistent rebellion require the VALLANDIGHAMS, the JERRY BLACKS and the WALLACES to suffer?

Gentlemen, make the most you can out of your feastings, your winings and your shoutings of Hosannas for these small favors in 1867. In 1868 General GRANT will lead the Republican forces to another "on to Richmond" campaign; and he will fight it out on that line if it takes him all Summer, and just as certainly as Richmond fell and JEFF. DAVIS was captured, so certainly shall the rebel hordes led on by this class of leaders again be captured.

THE clamor for impeachment by party machinery and for party desertion, is fittingly rebuked by the New York *Tribune*, which also betrays extreme disgust for the unsubstantial character of the testimony—the scandals, the hearsays and far-fetched suspicions, to which a flowery imagination has undertaken to give a character whereon to base the charge of high crimes and misdemeanors. The *Tribune* says:

> Our danger is, having a two-thirds Republican vote, we are tempted to impeach an officer who differs with the Republican party. Mr. Johnson may leave the party without committing a crime against the Constitution, and, with, and upon, the facts written, and the evidence before them, our Representatives must act as though the Republican party never existed. Possibly there is evidence of high crimes and misdemeanors. We do not see it in the printed volume, and it is the same time we do not see a moment of gossip and slander in the shape of evidence which it is painful to have in print. Secret, *ex-parte* statements—taken secretly—without the privilege of cross-examination or explanation. From these none can be more reckless than they. The American mind will certainly revolt against this—as the English mind revolted against the secret revelations of Titus Oates; and Congress could do nothing further than to pass a resolution to that effect by adding these scandal-gathering committees, or giving their investigations a name of infamy. The fatal hope appears to still be immediately considered—together with the revelations of the other "investigating" committees. Then Congress may begin its work.

The attempt to drive the Republicans into ranks in support of impeachment has failed—a fact that encourages the hope that they whose business it has been to crack the party whip will before long find their vocation gone.

THE coolest thing yet is the President's remark that while he has "had the misfortune to differ with Congress," he has expressed his "convictions without reserve, though with becoming deference to the opinion of the Legislative Department." Mr. JOHNSON when he was "swinging round the circle" and denouncing Congress as an illegal body hanging on the verge of the Government, must have been in a condition to render recollection of what he said out of the question.

AS AN illustration of the result of depression in business and extravagant rents in Chicago, it is stated there are in that city over seven hundred dwellings vacant and to let, so that owners of houses have, consequently, shown a disposition to make some concessions in the rates. Most of these are new; built for sale during the past season, but left over, and now held for rent instead. The tendency toward lower rents is not confined to Chicago, though no where else do we learn of so many dwellings being offered for rent. The downward tendency is universal—a necessary step to cheaper living and a start for the condition of things to which sooner or later the country must return.

THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.—This sterling paper comes to us enlarged and beautifully dressed in a new typographical suit. It is high toned, thoroughly intelligent and enterprising in its management, and we take pleasure in recommending the *Advertiser* to those who want a New England paper.

THE New York *Gazette* says that the intention of the *Herald* to form an Associated Press in opposition to the present organization, seems to have been entirely abandoned. Mr. Dana's new paper, which was to have been in the new ring, if this report be true, will have a new obstacle thrown in its way to obtaining the news.

MAJOR GENERAL SHERIDAN was received in Chicago Monday night with all the honors. It was a visit two months postponed, and the next day he had a formal welcome, when the people took him heartily by the hand in large numbers.

A WASHINGTON dispath to the Worcester *Spy* says it is now rumored that General Butler will oppose impeachment by speech and vote. The same dispatch says: The *Herald* is moving round on the question of government bonds. It contains an able editorial, arguing that General Butler's plan of paying the bonds in currency won't work. It thinks the government can make most of an announcement to the world that it will ultimately pay all its bonds in coin, let alone the question of honor. Neither does it relish General Butler's assault upon the national banks. Since General Butler's two hours speech on the finances the New England members regard him with coldness, and the Massachusetts members deny that he has any constituency to back up such sentiments.

THE question of "What is a billion" is thus discussed by the *Journal of Commerce*: There is not a standard English dictionary published which approves of the French system, and Webster's, which may be quoted as good American authority, defines a billion as a million of millions. The very derivation of the word requires this definition. A billion comes from (Latin) *bis*, (L. Latin) *millis*, or literally *a million twice*, expressed in figures thus 1,000,000,000. To define it as *a thousand millions* is to take away all the real significance of the word, and to make the works of standard English authors where this term is used, perfectly unintelligible.

TALK ABOUT BOOKS.

The Works of Miss Muhlbach (we believe she has been Mrs. Mundt since 1839) have been read by tens of thousands in their original German, and in their translated form they seem likely to be read by hundreds of thousands in this country. The exquisitely simple, direct, vigorous and yet feminine German in which they are written, would partly account for their popularity in their native land; but the first of the series reproduced on this side of the water was at once received into favor in spite of its changed dress, a translation of very little merit. Nor is this strange; it would be stranger if the books were not popular. Every one who has received more than the slightest tincture of education loves to look into the past, to form some acquaintance with the historical persons who have been prominent in affairs, or who have seemed to rule the events of the world. The works of the great historians, of the Gibbons, the Humes, the Prescotts, the Motleys, are not universally read with delight, mainly because the records to which these writers had access were neither sufficiently ample nor sufficiently minute in details to enable them to produce perfect pictures of the times and events about which they wrote. Besides, many of the records at their command, contemporary letters and memoirs and anecdotes, often containing personal details which, if believed and quoted, would have imparted much vivacity and interest to the notes, if not to the texts of these writers, were not used, simply because a sagacious criticism rejected them as fictions in whole or in part. Again, these great writers had no muse, or if they had one, she was not a helpful or obliging goddess. Miss Muhlbach has a muse who is most kind and accommodating. By this inspiration she is enabled to enter not only the cabinets of princes, and the bed-chambers of princesses, and the tents of generals, but the souls of all these. She is able to read their spirits, discern their most secret thoughts and hear their most private colloquies, and even their soliloquies. And all these she reports in the most lively style to the world. Thus the plebeian reader, even the republican, at the cost of a few dollars, is enabled to understand perfectly what was never understood before—the Great Frederick's mysterious relations with his wife Elizabeth Christina—and his not so mysterious but equally misrepresented relation to the *dauseuse* Barbarini. To know in old times "what Juno confabulated with Jove" was nothing to our privilege—thus, too, such famous circumstances in the life of Frederick as the scene in the Berlin palace, when, on the death of the old madman, his father, he let his young friends know that he was no longer their jolly companion but their King, and the scene at Potsdam when he laid before his favorite Generals his intention and plan of seizing Saxony, are described by Miss M. precisely as if she had been present on both occasions. Surely it is not remarkable that a multitude of readers are found to delight in such narratives. And we are bound to add that there is much history in her stories. She has evidently been a diligent student of some of the solid or of all the lighter literature of the times to which her romances of German history relate. She does not seem to have preferred fiction to truth when the latter would equally well serve her purpose, or prove equally fertile in picturesque and moving effects. A good illustration of her occasional mode of dealing with biography is furnished in the romance "Frederick the Great and his Family." Baron Trenck, whose spiders we all remember, is represented as a most accomplished, scholarly, brave and chivalrous gentleman, madly in love with Frederick's sister Amelia, and the Princess is represented as madly in love with Trenck. And the knowledge of this mutual attachment is the cause assigned for Frederick's hostility to the Baron and of his long imprisonment in Magdeburg. More than one chapter, if we rightly remember, are devoted to the prisoner's attempts to escape, sometimes with means furnished by the princess and always with her sympathy. She is described as deeply and persistently resenting her brother's cruelty to Trenck, and as purposely destroying her good looks by means of a poisonous medicine intended for the eyes, that she might not prove false to her engagement with the Baron by marrying the King of Sweden, agreeably to her brother's desire. Every one knows that Trenck's own memoirs give countenance to all this interesting matter, and Miss Muhlbach, in a note, refers to the *memoires* of Thiebault as additional authority. This Frenchman spent many years at Berlin when Frederick was Crown Prince, and afterwards. It is at once instructive and soothing to compare, on this subject, the real historian, Carlyle, with the romancer, Muhlbach. "Sister Amelia, whom some thought disappointed (by her sister Ulrique's marriage to the King of Sweden), as perhaps in her foolish thought she might be, was made Abbess of Quedlingburg, which opulent benefice had fallen vacant, and there or at Berlin lived a respectable spinster life, doubtless on easier terms than Ulrique; always much loved by her brother and loving him, and ('taking care of his shirts' in the final time)—noted in society for her sharp tongue and ways: *concerning whom Thiebault and his Trenck romances are worth no notice, if it be not with horse-whip on opportunity.*" Carlyle's Fredrick, vol. III, 580. See also p. 507 of the same volume. Fredrick Baron Trenck, loud-sounding phantasm once famous in the world, now gone to the nurseries as mythical, was of this carnival 1742–3 and of the next, and *not* of the next again—a tall actuality in that time, swaggering about in sumptuous life-guard uniform in his mess rooms and assembly rooms, much in love with himself—the fool! And I rather think, in spite of his dog insinuations, neither princess had heard of him till twenty years hence, in a very different phasis of his life, the empty, noisy, quasi-tragic fellow. And it is scandalously false what loud Trenck insinuates, what stupid Thiebault (always stupid, incorrect and the prey of stupidities) confirms as to this matter, fit only for the nurseries till it cease altogether."

Again, see vol. IV. p. 125, where Trenck appears as "an extensively fabulous blockhead," and page 148 where he appears as "a convicted liar." And yet however inadequate may be Miss Muhlbach's conception of some of her historical characters, and however false the foundations on which she builds many of her scenes, the general effect of many of her narratives is no doubt in the main accordant with authentic facts. Though she is neither a Walter Scott nor as Alfred de Vigny, she affords us rather pleasant reading. By her aid many will come to think of some of the great people of the past as real men and women instead of as mere names, as they too often continue to be, even to the reader of history. The incorrect or fictitious details are forgotten, while the general impression is retained.

"Napoleon and Queen Louisa" is one of her best books. It gives, we suppose, not only a lively but an essentially correct view of the politics, sufferings, and general condition of Prussia and its rulers during the memorable times to which the title refers. Some of the chapters are almost purely historical, with little infusion of invention. Such, for instance, are the interviews between Johannes Miller, the great historian, and Gentz, the famous publicist, and between Napoleon and Goethe. And there seems to be little exaggeration in the impression conveyed of the influence exerted by the wisdom, beauty and many virtues of Queen Louisa.

"The Empress Josephine," by the same authoress, is not a romance, but a historical sketch of the days of Napoleon. In it the authoress has made good use of the many French *memoires* of those days—a species of literature in which the French greatly excel, and in which they abound beyond all other nations. In this sketch the American reader will find the translation of a translation of many long passages conveying very entertaining matter—passages gathered from scores of volumes not easily to be got at in this country.

"The Daughter of an Empress," by the same authoress, is a historical romance of the same general character, with her other works. The scene of it is laid in Russia, and gives, probably, no inaccurate notion of some of the unspeakably unexemplary people who have sat on the throne and figured at the court of St. Petersburg. Besides the Russian personages —Princess Elizabeth, Count Orloff, Count Osterman and others whose names are familiar to all—the reader will renew his acquaintance with Cardinal Bernis and Pope Ganganelli. At least he will see how these people appear to Miss Muhlbach. (All these works are published by Appleton & Co., and sold by Davis, Clarke & Co.)

A good many years ago when Mr. Wilberforce began to interest himself in the welfare of the class of chimney-sweeps, then quite numerous in London, he introduced a bill into Parliament to prohibit the practice of employing boys in the work of *climbing*. When the bill came on for debate, the question arose how the chimneys were to be cleansed? In answer to which question a member gained considerable distinction, as Southey records, by suggesting that a goose let down the flue by a rope tied to one of its legs, would effectually remove the soot by the flapping of its wings. And when this method was objected to on the ground of cruelty to the goose, he remarked that doubtless two ducks would answer quite as well. Was this humor or insensibility? We know not; we have heard the anecdote quoted in exemplification of both. There is nothing much more curious in the history of our race than the different views and feelings entertained concerning our relations to the inferior animals. In nothing else have appeared stranger inconsistencies. Robespierre delighted in pet animals, and ordered to the guillotine a lady who had come to offer him a petition and accidentally trod on the tail of his favorite cat. The Hindoo of to-day will leave a human being of no caste, or of a lower caste than himself to perish of hunger by the wayside, though he will, on occasion, give his last rupee to buy flour for the ants or to release an imprisoned bird. His principles also teach him to abstain from all animal food. In this matter the Institutes of the Shastras agree with the *ipse dixit* of Pythagoras. If Ovid correctly reports the tradition of his teaching, that philosopher said, "Ungrateful is he and unworthy of the gift of grain who strikes with an axe the neck of the ox worn bare with the toil of turning the ground and hauling in the harvest." Moses in his law forgot neither beast nor bird. While no doubt brutal men have always been cruel to animals and humane men have always been kind to them, it should seem that the prevalence of the sound view and correct feeling on the subject is to be placed among the developments of christianity in combination with culture in our own time. Hundreds of thousands can now say and feel with Coleridge:

> "He prayeth best who loveth best
> Both man and bird and beast."

As to the want of thoughtfulness, or want of humanity on this subject in our mother island, so recently as the latter part of last century, it would be easy to recite facts. Instead of doing that, let us refer our reader to the sixth book of the Task, the great work of a poet we fear little read by the generation now rising, where he will find facts and something more,—instances then common of cruelty to animals, stated and denounced with much of the grace of poetry, and with much of the fervor and earnest conviction of a Hebrew prophet. It is in regard to these instances the poet exclaims:

> "Many a crime, deemed innocent on earth,
> Is registered in heaven; and these, no doubt,
> Have each their record, with a curse annexed.
> Carnivorous through sin
> Feed on the slain, but spare the living brute!"

There is still room for amendment in this matter, and we point our readers to a short sermon by the Rev. Dr. Osgood, of New York, entitled "The Gospel among the animals." In the phrase of old mortality we have found it a savory discourse. We are told that "the sermon was suggested by a conversation with the President of the Society for the Protection of Animals," and that "the preacher will think himself favored if his words shall add any interest to that movement, or do anything to start similar associations in our other great cities, and turn the minds and laws of our people in mercy toward the dependent creatures who too often are treated with neglect, and even with cruelty, in return for their great service." We give our reader one taste of the quality of the sermon. "A lover of nature will find great delight everywhere; and an Isaac Walton or Audubon find history, and drama too, among the birds and fishes. We may all see things that surprise us, and I confess to being an especial admirer of all rural creatures that are not noxious by their bite or sting, and even the venomous reptiles and insects I can admire at a safe distance. I have seen a little humming-bird slow fight and drive away a sparrow of ten times his weight, and have known the little crested lord of the barn yard march out to meet a fierce hen-hawk most valiantly, and be torn in pieces in defense of his frightened family, and prove himself thus—as General Scott was fond of saying, in his favorite tribute to the gamecock—to have 'the elements of the hero and the gentleman.'" [The sermon may be got at Pittock's.]

Titan Agonistes; the story of an Outcast—(published by Carleton, and sold by Pittock)—we have not read and are able to say little about. By dipping into the book here and there we discover that the scene is laid in the Border and Southern States, and the time of the action is the period which immediately preceded the rebellion. It thus possesses the source of interest that belongs to times and places with which all are familiar. The dialogue seems to be better done than the description. The satirical invective with which the book abounds appears to us coarsely wrought; nor can admire the intense exaggerative style which the author loves. Such writing as this is not to our taste: "His very soul dwelt in his eye; there every action and experience of his spirit revealed itself. When it reflected it seemed to become separate from all earthly fellowship and unapproachable; in his moments of terror and suffering it was like a vista of funereal yews in twilight; but even out of its loneliness and darkness the tide of love, unstained by weakness or desire, welled up and flowed through all its caves of light: it sometimes commanded, rarely hated, always pitied, often warned, but it never yet had wept, or begged or trifled. It never yet had known a passionless or a frigid hour; *its most abstract meditations had the fervor of heart-throbs and the splendor of vision.*" "The last Auswurf" is here described, and the title of the chapter is "The Last of the Titans."

We well remember when it was a question much discussed, whether Alexander Pope was a poet? This was debated even as in the time of Father Bouhours, and afterwards, it was debated in France whether a German is ever a man of *esprit*? And both questions were sometimes decided in the negative. The time is long passed away when this answer could be given to either question, without the instantaneous extinguishment of the answerer in contempt, and the author of the Rape of the Lock now holds a position not to be gainsaid among the great poets of our language. His works must be studied by all who desire to understand the English literature of this and the last century, whether they admire his poetry or not, or how ever little they may like the religious and philosophical opinions enforced in some of them. An edition of the Essay on Man, illustrated and printed in an attractive style on superior paper, and "annotated from a phrenological point of view," has been issued by Wells of New York. We are unable to see that the notes at all enhance the value of the Essay. The volume, however, is really pretty, and it is easy to overlook the notes. (On sale at Pittock's.)

The novel-reader who sent for "the Diversions of Purley," supposing it to be a work of fiction, or the agriculturist who ordered "Edgeworth on Irish Bulls" expecting to receive a book appropriate to his own pursuits, was not more surprised on examining each his purchase than we have been in looking into "The Sayings of Dr. Bushwhacker." In our ignorance of all but its title, we had supposed the book to be some desperate attempt at wit, in which the lack of power to produce the proper ingredients of the article had probably been satisfied with the most readily accessible substitutes. Instead of this it seems to us a little book of most excellent merit, overflowing with humor and scholarship. We cannot recall a better illustration of the saying of Buffon—"the style is the man"—in the sense in which Buffon did *not* use the phrase but in which it is always true; than is afforded by these colloquies with Dr. Bushwhacker. Though we have never seen Dr. B., we are sure, since reading the conversation entitled "accidental resemblances," that we should instantly recognize him in any part of the world; so distinct and perfect is the idea of his personality conveyed by the style of his talk. Besides the chapters by Mr. Cozzens, the volume contains two letters by Gulian C. Verplanck, one on the question, Was Champagne known to the Ancients? and the other on Oxyporian Wines, and also a sketch of a German Wine-cellar by Mr. Leland which gives some interesting glimpses into the Teutonic mind and manners. (Published by Simpson and sold by Davis, Clarke & Co.)

Short Studies on Great Subjects.—We almost shrink from lifting our rush-light to show the excellencies of a work by J. A. Froude. And yet, when we recollect some of the criticism we have seen on this very book, we feel that there is, possibly, in some quarters, a darkness which our small light may help to dispel. Of Froude's English history all intelligent readers have heard and know something, and his somewhat peculiar theory and method of history must also be known to most. With these we have nothing to do here, but with the book of which the title is given above. It consists of some five or six lectures, originally addressed to popular audiences, and of a number of articles written for magazines and reviews. Great independence of mind, uncompromising love of truth and an ethical spirit that never slumbers are characteristics of this writer, which must strike every reader. Those who have read ten pages of any of his works know that his style has no tinge of *Carlylese*. Most vivid and pictorial at times, it is always limpid and unaffected. In his habit of thought, however, he has evidently been much influenced by the writings of Carlyle, and not only by his writings; it is known that years ago he made Chelsea his place of residence that he might have Carlyle for his neighbor. The question has often been asked, "What are the doctrines or the truths which Carlyle insists upon? his style is so crabbed and eccentric that we do not understand him." We suppose that in this volume are presented several of those doctrines, expressed with a clearness in the handling of abstract thought unsurpassed by Pascal. Devout recognition of all nobleness, full belief in the reality of godliness and of the saintly character in history, the necessity of sincerity and honesty with ourselves and hatred of all unreality, happiness *not* our being's end and aim but subordinate to something higher, these are a few of the very ancient sentiments which Mr. Froude seldom forgets, and which his reader must have heard of before in order to understand him fully. Nor must we forget that he has no worship for the ugly though glittering idol which is now so generally adored, and whose name is Success. Once, nevertheless, he does appear to have been terribly tempted. See the article on Reynard the Fox, in which he confesses—hardly with sufficient contrition—the admiration he for a time felt for that accomplished scoundrel. What must be the guilt of our land! The traits above enumerated we think the attentive reader will find in this volume, either directly indicated or implied, and forming its elevated tone. In the Lectures on the Times of Luther and Erasmus, Mr. Froude, with all his admiration for the former, renders to the latter the measure of justice which he has too seldom received from the church historians. There are also two or three articles which will enable the reader to understand the attitude of *inquiry* towards Christianity, maintained at present by some of the best and most cultivated English minds. These articles contain a statement, made in a reverent spirit, of the difficulties, intellectual and moral, which beset them in the study of the Bible, and even exhibit tentative efforts at their removal. There is, again, an essay on Homer, which is admirable for the knowledge and poetic feeling it displays, and which will be read with especial edification by our many youthful Grecians! The effect of it will surely be to raise still higher the enthusiasm with which that poet, in his vernacular, is already regarded among us. We must quote a remark from this essay which may be new to some of our students. "In the Oyssey the Trojans are called *epibetores hippon*, which must mean *riders*. In the Iliad horses are *never* ridden; they are always in harness." May we presume slightly to criticise this remark? While it is quite true that in the Iliad *hippoi* means the pair of horses in the chariot, and then the chariot itself, and cavalry are never spoken of; yet there is at least one instance of horseback-riding in that poem. It occurs in the 10th book, in the story of the midnight *raid* of Diomede and Ulysses on foot into the Trojan and Thracian camps. We are told that while Ulysses untied the horses of King Rhesas and bound them together with the reins and drove them from the crowd with his bow, having neglected to take the whip from the chariot, his companion stood deliberating whether or not he should pick up and carry off the chariot with him. At length Diomede, who had disregarded the whistle by which his compaion had signalled him to be gone, received a warning from Minerva—whereupon, says the poet, *Karpalimos hippon epebesato*. As the chariot was certainly left behind, these words must be taken in their first and obvious sense—"he swiftly mounted one of the horses"—which is the interpretation in the German translation of Voss, *eilend bestieg er ein Ross*. Hence Mr. Froude's "never," must not be taken in its absolute sense. (Published by Scribner & Co. For sale at Davis, Clarke & Co's.)

ITALY.

A New Version of the Late Campaign—The Battle of Mentana Unnecessary.

(Paris (November 17) Correspondence of the London Herald.)

Under the title of "Les merveilles du fusil Chassepot," M. Alphonse de Calonne, who has just returned from the seat of war in Italy, contributes to the *Revue Contemporaine* a remarkable paper on the short campaign which culminated in the disaster at Mentana. M. de Calonne states, in the most explicit terms, that when Garibaldi was attacked by the combined forces of France and the Pope, he was in the act of withdrawing his troops behind the lines of the Italian army. He gives a variety of topographical and strategical reasons in support of his assertion, but such arguments are never convincing. He states, however, two facts which are conclusive:

"On the 24 inst. Garibaldi had officially informed the Colonel of the Seventh regiment of the Toscana Grenadiers, who was on duty at Passo Correse, that it was his intention to retreat across the frontier on the following morning. The execution of the Pontifical territory and even commenced on the 1st and 2d. During those two days I saw with my own eyes upwards of five thousand volunteers start on their way home. They incumbered the roads and railway trains; they filled themselves up by hundreds in luggage trains, and even on baggage trucks. The number in each train may be estimated at one thousand two hundred; now there were two trains a day, which for two days represented a force of four thousand eight hundred volunteers removed from the Papal territory, besides which there were about one thousand five hundred of them at Passo Correse waiting for conveyance on the day of the fight. The evacuation of the Italian army which whom I have spoken estimate at upward of five thousand the number of volunteers who had left, and at five thousand the number of those who were in the action on the 3d. These facts fully establish that Garibaldi was not contemplating when he was attacked, and that had we been less in a hurry he would have recrossed the Correse without one drop of blood having been shed."

M. de Calonne describes the intervention of the French with their Chassepots as a worse than useless butchery; bear in mind that it is not a "systematic" opponent, but a friend of the Government, who writes thus:

"The intervention of the Chassepot muskets in the combat is not the least of our mistakes; nay, it is something worse than a mistake, if we think of the five hundred or six hundred poor fellows who have been sacrificed to the new weapon. By this uncalled for step *we have sown in every Italian heart a germ of antihostility which will produce bitter fruit hereafter;* we have stupidly and wantonly substituted ourselves for the Austrians in the hatred of the Italian people. Would it not have been better to leave to the Papal troops the honor of this miserable victory? The Italians now say that they have been betrayed, basely laid into a trap (*d'un guet-a-pens*), and that henceforth any reprisals must be considered fair. Was it a wise policy to give such an additional stimulus to already over-excited political passions? We do not know enough to be in a way to Rome without incurring the blame of so much useless bloodshed? The Garibaldians, we have irrefutably proved, were evacuating the Papal territory; all the assertions of the *Moniteur* are powerless to disprove the fact, which we ourselves witnessed; and the efforts of the official world to mislead public opinion and dissemble truth will only make its manifestation the clearer. No one will suspect us of sympathy for the Garibaldian venture. We don't consider Garibaldi himself either a wise man or a good General; but his patriotism, his self-denial and his misfortune, render him sacred in our eyes—and when we find him reproached with odious designs which never entered his head, when we find him hunted with barbarians, a plan for rousing the people and dethroning his King, we wonder what has become of French generosity, and whether it is fair that those who knew the truth should studiously conceal it."

The concluding remarks of M. de Calonne are even stronger:

"It would be more dignified—nay, perhaps more expedient—for us to look at home, and ask ourselves if our policy and our acts have always been characterized by the civil administration, justifies his silence before the people now. His present business is military, not political. He is General-in-Chief—not President, Senator, or Representative. He will be all this for us as a people when military commanders are liberal with political advice and criticism for the public ear. We know of nothing more offensive in Gen. McClellan's Report than the impertinent counsels which he dispatched from Harrison's Landing. And even the open disloyalty of their opponents could scarcely reconcile us to the direct interference of Union Generals in the political campaigns of 1863 and 1864. Many incidents of the time proved the moral impossibility of a military commander's limiting himself to mere words in his active support of a political party. We are glad that Gen. Grant does not add to mischievous precedents in this direction. Our main objection to him as a Presidential candidate is that he is the General of the Army. If he were a political general also, our objections would be insuperable.

Of course we do not mean to say that Gen. Grant ought to be accepted as a candidate upon blind trust, or withdraw a distinct avowal upon his part of his political sympathies and doctrines. But it is enough for him to make this avowal when called upon by proper authority, at a reasonable time before the nomination of a candidate can be made. Whether such a vow is will be made, and whether it will be satisfactory when made, are questions that can afford to wait a little longer.

British Capital for the South.

The English newspapers speak of the visit of an agent of British capitalists to this country, to ascertain how the owners of plantations in the South can be assisted with capital to develop the resources of their property. The agent, who, we believe, is now in this country, is Mr. John Everitt, of Allhallows Chambers, London. It is said that he comes to assist both the small landowners, white or black, and the large planters, and to inquire if good and available security can be given for loans. They say that if this can be done the immense sums of money now locked up in England might be invested so as to realize a good and safe return for British capital, as well as to benefit the South. We have on several occasions recommended British capitalists to turn their attention to the South as the best country in which to employ their abundant wealth.—*N. Y. Herald.*

In the rich deserts of Nevada there is plenty of precious metal, but so little fuel that the scarcity of wood is one of the great obstacles to remunerative mining. But there is generally some compensatory element provided by nature to make up for apparent deficiences, if people will only look for it. There have been lately discovered on the Humboldt river, above the sink or lake, vast tracts of land that are solid beds of peat. There is one bed covering 15,000 acres. These deposits are always found in the most barren and desert-like regions; one of the first signs of their presence is the dead appearance of the *tule* or marsh grass.

One hundred barrels of whisky from some point above St. Louis were seized on the levee of that city yesterday by the United States Marshal.

PERSONAL.

—It is asserted that although Mr. Dickens has read now nearly five hundred times, he never attempts a new part in public until he has spent at least two months over it in study as faithful and searching as Rachel or Cushman would give to a new character. This study extends not merely to the analysis of the text to the discrimination of character, to the minutest points of elocution; but decides upon the facial expression, the tone of the voice, the gesture, the attitude, and even the material surroundings of the actor, for, *acting it is, not reading*, in the ordinary sense, at all. Mr. Dickens is so essentially an artist that he cannot neglect the slightest thing that may serve to heighten the effect of what he has undertaken to do.

—Mr. Anthony Trollope, Mr. Edmund Yates and other English novelists are about to imitate Mr. Dickens and try their hand,—perhaps we should say their voice,—at reading their own works. It is not impossible that the fashion may be imported to this country and that we may presently hear of Mr. Beecher reading his own "Norwood," in place of a lecture to an interesting audience.

—Quite a stir was caused by the statement of Dr. Guthrie to a church in Scotland, that he had seen six hundred persons asleep during sermon in a free church in a neighboring town. The congregation denied the truth of the remark, upon which the doctor says that so many were at least in a very suspicious posture.

—*On dit*, that Emerson Etheridge is to be married in a few weeks to a young lady of Dresden, Tennessee.

—The King of Italy likes Rattazzi, the late Prime Minister, better than any other minister he has had, and interposed his royal mandate to save him from the contingencies of his accepting challenges to fight from some half dozen noblemen and gentlemen who had been attacked in the scandalous book recently published by his wife. Neither husband nor king can manage madame, who dresses and does in all other respects as suits the whim of the hour.

—A woman was so anxious to see Weston, when he was at Edgerton, Ohio, lately, that she smuggled herself into his room, and burst upon him when he was almost *in puris naturalibus*.

—"I remember," says Lord Biden, "Mr. Justice Gould trying a case at York, and when he had proceeded for about two hours, he observed, 'Here are only eleven jurymen in the box, where is the twelfth?' 'Please you, my lord,' said one of the eleven, 'he has gone away about some other business—but *he has left his verdict with me!*"

—The managing editor of the London *Times* has a salary of £5,000 ($25,000) a year, which is something like a fair compensation for journalism.

—The age of the poet Halleck has been inaccurately stated in the newspapers containing the notices of his death. The writers were probably misled by the incorrect dates in the biographical accounts of him published in his lifetime. He was born on the 8th of July, 1790, and was consequently seventy-seven years old at the time of his death.

—The London *Court Journal* says Queen Victoria and the royal family will pay the customary yearly visit to the grave of the Prince Consort on the 14th of December, and then go to Osborne. The Windsor air has has been very beneficial to the Princess of Wales.

—The entire stud of the Marquis of Hastings has been sold at auction. An English sporting paper says it would be "interesting to know into what channel his heavy winnings have found their way."

General Grant's Testimony.

(From "The Nation," November 28, 1867)

The published testimony of General Grant before the Judiciary Committee, is in every way creditable to him. It shows that he had the good sense to perceive at the moment of victory both the duty of the Government to show magnanimity, in abandoning the right to punish the military leaders of the rebellion, and his own duty to abstain from committing the Government to anything further than this. In this he proved wiser than his time. Mr. Johnson, with the apparent approval of the nation, desired to punish those whom Grant had pledged the country's honor to spare, while General Sherman, erring on the opposite side, sought to arrange by a military convention the terms of civil reconstruction. General Grant is very explicit in disclaiming all idea, either then or now, of assuming to regulate political affairs or to bestow political rights upon those who surrendered to him. As he very justly says, that was a matter for Congress to decide. It was simply his duty to leave it alone; but it is so rarely that any man does his duty and is content to do it, that General Grant merits praise for his humble virtue. The bane of Mr. Johnson has been his hunger for more than his duty, by which we mean not merely to do more perfectly than the minimal that which he was bound to do after some fashion, but rather to do that which it was not his place to do at all. If General Grant can adhere in the future as in the past to the simple rule of minding his own business, he will not lose reputation by any tasks that may be imposed upon him.

Of the same simple but unusual order of merit is the General's statement that he did not assume to originate any civil policy, and never was willing to suggest any plan for civil government, although he freely expressed his anxiety that some kind of civil government should be set up as speedily as possible. It is obvious that he differed from most of his countrymen in this, that he did not believe himself capable of doing or devising everything. His experience as a military commander had neither unfitted him from the duties of civil law and peaceful government, nor infected him with a desire to retain superfluous power in his own hands, nor intoxicated him with the notion of his own supreme wisdom. All this is, speaking in an absolute sense, evidence of only humble virtues. There is nothing magnificent in it, nothing brilliant, nothing indicative of genius, nothing which *ought not* to be true of every man who is not a fool, a knave or a brute.

This testimony shows very clearly that General Grant was sound in his views of the relation of the President and of Congress respectively to the work of reconstruction; and if he is correct in the impressions he derives of the sentiments of others, it shows that Mr. Johnson and all his advisers looked upon the governments organized in 1865 as dependent for validity upon the recognition of Congress. Every consideration of reason and probability points to the same conclusion; and the great change which came over Mr. Johnson's views in this respect was an impressive proof of the danger which attends any usurpation of power, even under the most pressing necessity. There is no doubt that Mr. Johnson sincerely believed, and had much reason to believe, that he was pursuing the path which Mr. Lincoln had laid out. But no sanction of this kind, and no encouragement from his party, could alter the fact that he was doing that which no President is elected to do; and he soon began to care far more for the personal triumph of seeing "his policy" successful than he did for the accomplishment of the purposes for which he, as well as Mr. Lincoln, had in view when that policy was devised. When we have a President who is capable of making his own business, and content with doing so, we shall have some guaranty against this miserable personal vanity which is costing the nation so much.

The straightforward answers of Gen. Grant to the questions of the committee give satisfactory reasons for the reticence on political questions which is so freely charged upon him as a fault. Precisely the same argument which justified his abstinence from suggestions to the Cabinet upon matters regarding only the civil administration,

THE ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILROAD.

How it was Robbed---Conductors' Perquisites.

Hon. Mr. Cave, chairman of the bondholders of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, in Ohio and Pennsylvania, but mostly owned in England, has been over here looking into the causes of its failure and the bad management which nearly ruined it. One of his discoveries was this, about our conductors and our way of paying fares in the cars:

I must give you another leakage. In America there is a system of allowing you to pay money for your tickets after you get in the cars, and after the journey has commenced. It is paid to the same man who afterwards comes to collect your tickets. [Laughter.] It is not an uncommon thing in America, I am told; but one of these "conductors," who received a salary of £4 a week, retired after four or five years' service, with a fortune of $70,000. Well, we had a conductor of the name of Benson; he was promoted, and we appointed in his stead another conductor named Merryman, who had never before performed the duties. When he took his place Benson thought he would give him a caution, so he said, 'I have been conductor on this train for a long time, and now that you have been appointed, you must comply with the rules of the road.' Merryman, who felt all the natural desire to oblige which the satisfaction at his appointment engendered, said 'Certainly, I shall be most happy to comply with them. What are they?' Benson replied, 'before you hand over you receipts to your employers, you must stop $150 a month. If you don't do it you will injure me. I shall be brought up. In fact, we shall make it too hot for you, if you don't. You have got to do it.' It occurred to me when this tale was told, why should not this man take $250, seeing that there was no rule of the road, so far as I could ascertain, to determine the maximum? I asked Benson the taken, though I gave a good deal of attention to the matter when I was there. When Merryman, who had a wife, told her the rules of the road, she, like a good wife, said, 'We have been able to be very comfortable so far on so much a week. I am not going to let you be a rogue. You must resign.' And he resigned accordingly. We thought the matter so curious that we had her down to Meadville, and after a good deal of trouble the facts came out. Benson was sent for and confronted with her, and he could not deny it. There have been attempts to bribe Merryman, but I told him to hold on till he heard from me, for we could not afford to lose such a man as that. Putting a stop to such a gross system as that on our line would save us at least $400,000 a year."

IMPORTANT DENOMINATIONAL MOVEMENT.

A Congress of American Churches.

The *Evangelist*, New School Presbyterian, mentions that the late movements towards union in the Presbyterian Church and elsewhere have led many to look forward to a still larger union which should bring into one

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 7, 1867.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The European steamers Baltic, Tripoli and Manhattan have been seized by Marshal Murray, of New York, and bonded, on the ground of carrying an excess of passengers.

The Episcopal church at Ravenswood, Long Island, was totally destroyed by fire about two o'clock yesterday morning.

Dispatches received in New York announce that the mails from China and Japan, which left Yokohama by the steamship Great Republic, October 25th, and San Francisco, November 30th, via Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, arrived in Cheyenne City on the morning of the 30th ult., and were thence forwarded by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, who will deliver them in New York this morning. This will be but forty-one days from Japan, and only fifteen days between San Francisco and New York.

Dr. Harris reports the number of deaths in New York last week at 363, and Brooklyn thirteen, or about twenty in one thousand in the former and nineteen per one thousand in the latter. The number of deaths among those who had exceeded the octogenarian age, was twelve. The so-called zymotic diseases as a class still keep at a minimum ratio in the list of the causes of death, but the amount of infant mortality is not much reduced.

A meeting of manufacturers was held in Portland, Me., yesterday, at which delegates were appointed to the Cleveland Convention.

Mr. Waddington, a resident of Vancouver's Island, is in Canada, to promote a scheme of opening up communication overland with British Columbia. It is proposed to open a line of land and water carriage from the head of Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean.

The Kansas Pacific Railway Company have received bonds from the Government for the section of road accepted by the Commissioners on the 20th ult., and yesterday applied for the Commissioners to inspect another section of twenty miles, extending to the 325th mile post.

On account of the immense amount of property afloat, the Buffalo Board of Trade has petitioned the Canal Board to extend the time for closing the canals.

STATE NEWS.

Sheriff Lyle, of Philadelphia, was sworn into office on Saturday. He has appointed six soldiers and five professional politicians to positions in his office.

The firemen of Philadelphia propose erecting a handsome monument to the memory of the late Chief Engineer Lyle.

John Hill and Henry Clay, colored, went into an eating saloon in Philadelphia, on Saturday evening, where they quarreled. Hill called Clay a liar, when the latter seized a sharp pointed carving knife and drove the blade into the left breast of Hill to the depth of several inches, causing death in twenty minutes. Clay is a mulatto, and was formerly a slave in Alabama. He has escaped.

A fire occurred on the Farmers' Railroad Saturday morning, said to have been caused by a spark from a passing locomotive alighting on a tank car, and setting it on fire. The fire spread rapidly, and before it could be checked had destroyed three cars loaded with oil, two cars loaded with coal, and one empty car. Also the large oil sheds of Messrs. Perry & Bond, in which were about one thousand empty barrels.

The reason why James S. Cox, Esq., resigned the Presidency of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was a desire on his part to open the way for some gentleman of distinguished financial ability and resources to step in and extricate the company from the pecuniary embarrassment which has resulted from unexpected failure of negotiations for the sale of its new loan in England. Edward W. Clark, Esq., is the new President.

John Rumbough, a wealthy batchelor, committed suicide on Thanksgiving day by hanging himself in the barn of his brother-in-law, in Sewickly township, Westmoreland county. No cause can be conjectured for the act. He was reputed to be worth about forty thousand dollars.

A couple of weeks ago, a man named Pinkerton, of Sewickly township, Westmoreland county, was kicked by a horse on the forehead, and died from the effects of the wound. On the day on which the accident occurred, Mr. Pinkerton had been to hear a lecture on horse training, and on his return was trying to make his horse perform some feats, when the horse became unmanageable and kicked his master, with the result stated.

The Greensburg *Argus* says: On Wednesday evening last a bold and dastardly attempt was made to assassinate Henry Miller, a young lad aged about sixteen years, and son of Jacob M. Miller, Esq. He was sitting by the fire in the front room of his father's residence, on West Pittsburgh street, when some person unknown he hall, and opening the door leading the young man was sitting, fired a t at him, the ball entering the mantlel burying itself beyond sight, after made his escape undetected.

THE OIL REGIONS.

Development of New and Old Territory.

Several gentlemen of Oil City have five acres of land at the upper end of Cornplanter Run, which they are preparing to develop, having already commenced to sink a well. The *Petrolian* thinks it is good property, and that the prospects for striking oil are good.

The well on the Bean Farm, says the Pithole *Record*, of Messrs. Smith and Beardsley, commenced testing a day or two since, getting oil almost immediately after the water was exhausted. It is now yielding from fifteen to twenty barrels per day. The Bean Farm oil territory, and those farms surrounding it, are rapidly grow ing in favor among oil operators.

Speaking of the great interest excited in the vicinity of Shaffer Run, by the striking of the Hasson Well, the Oil City *Petrolian* says: The desire to procure leases is increasing, and the land owners find no difficulty in leasing all they wish to, at royalty of one-half of the oil. A large number of leases have been taken, not only upon Shaffer Run, but also on the adjoining territory, while parties have commenced operations on the headwaters of Cornplanter Run, which empties into Oil Creek at the Clepp Farm.

The area of the new field is large, and from present prospects will be in a course of thorough development by the coming spring and summer. Thus will be opened up a producing locality almost equal in extent to the entire producing region of Venango county. It is not irprobable that by the 1st of July next a daily production of fully five to six thousand barrels will be yielded from this new oil field, which on all sides adjoins Oil City.

The preparations at Oil City for shipment of oil by the Allegheny Valley Railroad still continue. Fisher Bros., with the energy so characteristic of the firm, have erected a platform by which, by means of their engine, they will be enabled to load twelve cars at one time. This shows the vast amount of business conducted by this firm. Lockhart & Frew have a similar platform just above. John Munhall has one commenced below Fisher Bros., and several others will be erected, thus taking up the entire river front of Venango City. The railroad shipment will be greatly facilitated by these improvements, as it will not only be possible to load an entire train of tank cars in a single hour, thus saving a large amount in handling, but the saving from the waste of former years will be immense.

OHIO NEWS.

There is a coal famine in Chillicothe; the coal yards of that place are ten thousand bushels short. The scarcity is occasioned by the low water in the Hocking Canal.

The Portsmouth *Tribune* of last week says: Prospects are favorable for a coal famine if the present low water continues. Prices are tending upward, and the bottom of the barges at the landing are being scraped.

The Chillicothe *Advertiser* says: "We hope at no distant day, to see our Ohio canal widened and deepened so as to admit of the passage of steamboats from Portsmouth to Cleveland. Nothing would so rapidly develop the interior of the State, and so speedily pay principal and interest on the investment. The expense would be small in comparison with the benefits attained. The right of way is already owned; the feeders are of sufficient size, and but an additional few feet in depth and width is all that would be required to warrant the enlargement of the locks. As a preliminary measure, we would like to see the Legislature this winter instruct the Board of Public Works to report upon the feasibility and the estimated expense."

The Geauga *Democrat* relates the following singular occurrence: Mr. R. Dayton met with a serious accident at Reed's Mills in rather a novel way. Approaching a planer when in motion, the cylinder containing the knives, going with the velocity it does, gave the appearance of being at rest, and, supposing it to be so, he placed his hand upon it, and then, taking it away, put it in his pocket, not knowing that he had been harmed. A man standing the planer threw off the belt, and, stepping toward him, asked him if he was hurt, when he discovered that he had lost some of his fingers. The probability is his hand was so benumbed that he did not feel it when it was done.

The Tiffin *Tribune* says: Lieut. Buffum, one of the party sent into Oregon in 1862, to cut rebel communications, who visited Tiffin a few weeks since, shot himself through the breast last week, in a Connecticut town, while under the influence of drink. He will probably not recover.

John Emmerson, a former member of Company I, 101st O. V. I., died suddenly in Tiffin a few days ago. He had just been weighing himself, and as he stepped from the scales he fell to the floor and immediately expired. He seemed to be in good health up to the moment of his death.

The costs in the McCoy murder case amount to $1,029 09. The old man has been sentenced to prison for life, and the officers of the law have issued an execution upon his valuable property to recover the costs.

FROM OIL CITY, PA.

Stagnation in Business and Prospects Gloomy--225,000 Barrels of Oil Awaiting Shipment to Market--The Allegheny Valley Railroad--The Shaffer Run Oil Regions--The Hasson Well---Amount of Oil on Hand--A Disastrous Fire--Railway Buildings.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

OIL CITY, PA., November 30, 1867.

This is the last day of fall, according to the almanac makers, but winter, as usual, is a little ahead of time, and has managed to sprinkle considerable snow on the receding coat tail of Autumn. This has been a trying fall for Oil City, and the prospects for winter are gloomy enough. The low water in the river has tied everything up, and all classes suffer by it. There is probably 225,000 barrels of oil stored in place in tanks and barges, most of it for the Pittsburgh market, and to be shipped by river, and everybody is waiting anxiously for the returns of money this will bring here—laborer and capitalist alike. If this oil could have been marketed at the usual time, and at prices then ruling, business would have been comparatively good here this fall, but instead of that we have stagnation in everything. Evidences of this are exhibited by the numerous placards in front of the clothing stores, announcing "goods at cost; this stock must be sold before January 1st, as we are going to leave town." The community will be all the healthier if these "pasteboard promises" of a second exodus are kept, for there has been a larger population and more persons engaged in shop-keeping here than the business of the place could profitably support for a long time. We carry too much capital in the amount of our barrages, and the sooner we take in our sails the better for all concerned. We cover entirely too much ground, and if we gather ourselves together as a village and stop "playing city," the sooner will the "crossing from lethargy," so much urged by our local press, take place, and business assume a more healthy tone and the place a progressive tendency.

The river will probably close up without a boating rise, and many of our dealers will be compelled to hold till spring. This will be particularly hard upon those having barges laden with bulk, as it will have to be dumped out and stored in tanks or barrels. They have already lost ten per cent. of this oil by evaporation and leakage, by which the buyer, (as this oil is already sold,) gains in the improved gravity of the oil. The completion of the Allegheny Valley Railroad to Brady's Bend will change all this in future, and will render the business hereafter less precarious, but so far as the business of this year is concerned it cannot materially help it. Four barges have operated upon the expectation of shipping by the river, and the necessity of railroad transportation will neutralize the whole season's business. The experience of business men here illustrates the fact that provision against the ordinary fluctuations of prices and the vicissitudes of trade are not sufficient to guarantee success. What is most promising and judicious to-day may be folly and failure to-morrow.

The completion of the Allegheny Valley Railroad is likely to hasten the construction of the connecting link between this point and the Oil Creek Railroad in the interest of the New York Central, and in opposition to the Farmers' Railroad, controlled and operated by the Pennsylvania Central. This will make a through and direct route to Buffalo, and may afford such facilities for loading cars at the wells, where the oil is produced, as to render almost useless the extensive tank storage, platforms and shipping conveniences erected here. The result, in the last analysis, is the last "revolution in business" we shall see here, and will "awaken to the importance of the occasion," and "rouse from their lethargy" our business men, who have been struggling against difficulties and discouragements, and surmounting obstacles rarely encountered in business experience.

The developments made and in progress on Shaffer run prove that to be the most productive locality in the oil region. The Lackawana wells, which have produced 75,000 barrels of oil, are still yielding steadily. The Hasson and Corwin wells, which were tested a few weeks since, commenced by pumping one hundred and twenty-five barrels per day, and has been steadily increasing until now it is *flowing* a steady stream of oil, which I know, from careful personal inspection, to be not much short of five hundred barrels per day, and this notwithstanding the well is "ceased," and has the "standing-box" still in it. Other wells in the same neighborhood nearly down and ready for testing, exhibit equally favorable appearances. The "Empire Line" Transportation Company are laying a pipe from these wells to this point, which will bring the oil here in a few days. An unusual amount of new territory is now being developed—several wells going down on Shaffer, Charley and Holliday Runs, and on intervening territory, with good prospects in each locality. Several good wells have also been struck on Siverly Farm recently. 1868 will open upon a better production in this immediate neighborhood than 1867.

A writer in same paper recently (I am not sure it was not the COMMERCIAL) put the amount of oil now in store for shipment in the oil region at 1,000,000 barrels. This estimate is certainly much above the mark. Those who are considered best informed on the subject place the amount at less than 700,000 barrels. Even this estimate seems incredible when we consider that the shipments by rail from this point are now over 20,000 barrels per week.

An extensive and destructive fire occured here to-day. It was occasioned by a spark from the locomotive igniting the oil which was leaking from some of the tank cars in the train on the Farmers' Railroad. Eight or ten cars were consumed, and oil, oil barrels, platforms, sheds, &c., were burned to the amount of several thousand dollars, besides injury to machinery in the railroad shops and private property in the neighborhood. The dwelling of C. Taber, Esq., with its entire contents was consumed, and others, though seriously threatened, were saved by the indomitable and persevering efforts of our very efficient fire department. The total loss is probably not less than $25,000, principally falling upon the Farmers' Railroad Company. As long as wood-burning engines are attached to oil trains, or are permitted to run among oil tanks and platforms, these occurrences will be frequent. The authorities of the borough ought to make such strigent regulations on this subject for the protection of private property here, as this is the third accident of the kind in a short time.

The Atlantic and Great Western, and the Warren and Franklin Railroads have each erected neat and convenient offices and depots at this point, and are extending their side tracks and platforms to accommodate their large and increasing business, much to the satisfaction of shippers here, and the convenience of themselves. More anon. Hastily yours,

OBSERVER.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

An Aged Lady and Her Grand-Daughter Killed by the Cincinnati Express on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Tuesday afternoon about twenty minutes after twelve o'clock, an old lady named Mrs. Sarah McMunn, aged fifty-eight years, and her grand-daughter, aged six years, were run over by the Cincinnati Express train on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Swissvale Station, eight miles from this city, and received injuries which resulted in their deaths. It appears that Mrs. McMunn and Ann Eliza Weiser, her grand-daughter, were in waiting at the station for the purpose of seeing Mrs. Noble Caldwell, sister of Mrs. McMunn, off on the Accommodation train. Upon arriving at the station, Mrs. McMunn started to go across the track to get on the opposite side of the train, and left deceased standing on the platform. After crossing, and when the Cincinnati Express was about five hundred yards from the station, she looked back and saw her sister and her grandchild standing on the opposite side of the track. Mrs. Caldwell then looked for her little niece and child, which accompanied her, and seeing that it was safe, turned again and looked for her sister, when she noticed her sister and the child lying on the roadway. There is a curve in the road near the station, which may have prevented the engineer from noticing the position of the parties. The train was immediately stopped, and the bodies carried into the station. Mrs. McMunn's skull was fractured, causing instant death, while her grand daughter, whose skull was injured, arm broken and side crushed, lived for a few hours. The remains of McMunn were forwarded to Mrs. McMunn's residence, near the station.

Business at the Register's Office.

Mr. Gray, County Register, furnishes the following record of business transacted at his office during the month of November:

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION GRANTED.

Decedent.	Administrator.	Estate.
Levi J. Farquhar,	George F. Swain,	$1,200
Samuel McClure,	Abdiel McClure,	1,200
Henry Stofel,	Mary Ann Stofel,	300
Joseph Davis,	Amelia Graham,	500
Charles A. Baldwin,	Same,	500
James A. Gibson,	Nancy M. Gibson,	5,000
John Maurer,	Adam Arras,	1,000
John Reese,	John G. Reese, *de bonis non, cum test. annexo*,	500
Chas. P. McDevitt,	Mary McDevitt,	1,000
Wm. Mueller,	Louisa Schaus,	200
Wm. Brunlick,	Daniel Johnson,	100
Margaret M. Clark,	Alexander Aiken,	100
Christian Fisher,	Anna Fisher & Adol. Fisher,	600
John Phillips,	Mary Phillips,	1,000
James Dougherty,	James Evans,	50
Wm. Cunningham,	Mary Pleasants,	300
Elizah. Cinnamond,	G. S. Bales,	500
Isab. M. Proudfoot,	A. B. Proudfoot,	200
Mariah Cooper,	Sarah Cooper,	50
Margaret Brown,	John McBroom,	1,000
Thomas Menzer,	Oswald Werner,	150
James Lyon,	James R. Lyon,	1,000
John Stark,	Eva M. Stark,	1,000
Jacob Burkhartt,	Amanuel Schlag,	1,000
Jane L. Sterrett,	John McCreight,	4,000
R. S. Morrow,	John Morrow,	3,000

WILLS ADMITTED TO PROBATE.

Testator.	Executors.
Thomas S. Clarke,	Charles A. Clarke, William Shaw, William Miller, James Theodore Wood,
James Wood,	Charles Augustus Wood, R. S. Reatz, William H. Smith.
James Manoun,	William Ketchum.
Bonaventure Hunck,	Johanna Hunck.
James Campbell,	John Farm, Harvey Ferguson.
John Quigg,	John Quigg.
Jeremiah Morgan,	A. C. Thompson.
Hannibal Scott,	Elizabeth Scott, Florence Scott.
James Morgan,	Lewis Woodson.
Patrick Creed,	Thomas Creed, William McLaughlin.

Compelling a Couple to Marry---Railroad Justice.

The New Lisbon *Journal*, a chatty little paper issued in Butler an amusing affair occurred on a train on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, Jerry Boyer, Conductor, a few nights since, between Columbiana and Crestline. At the former place a young man from Canfield got on the train, with a beautiful young female, whom he represented as his cousin, and took a berth in the sleeping car for both. A person on the train recognized the girl as of a very respectable family near Minerva, Stark county, but did not like the looks of the man secured the berth in the sleeping car. Suspicions that all was not right were communicated to the conductor, and on the night the two were found occupying the same couch. Thinking that if married they *should be*, on the arrival of the car at Crestline in the morning, Jerry having taken the matter in hand, then accompanied the young man to get the license, and then accompanied him to the house of a minister, where the marriage ceremony was performed. The happy couple concluded not to go any further, and were left at Crestline to enjoy the honeymoon at their leisure.

JUNIPER TAR SOAP—Is a certain cure for Chapped Hands and all roughness or irritation of the skin, Eczema, Ringworm, Salt Rheum, Pimples, and all other cutaneous affections, making the skin soft and smooth. Manufactured by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York. Sold by all druggists. w'tf.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 4, 1867.

There was not a feature of change in the local money market to-day. Discounts were light at most houses, but offerings are numerous. "No objection to the paper presented, but we have already discounted close up to the line," is a usual response to an applicant for a loan. The old banks are moving with a great deal of caution, and at the same time affording every accommodation to their customers that is prudent for them to do.

—The quotations for governments to-day do not vary sufficiently to indicate their tendency. The reports received by Messrs. McVay & Co., and James T. Brady & Co., show about the same figures as the previous ones:

U. S. 6s 1881	112½
U. S. 5-20s, 1862	107¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1864	104¼
U. S. 5-20s, 1865, May and November	103¾
U. S. 5-20s, 1865 January and July	103¼
10-40s	101½
December '64 Compounds	110¾
June '65 do	107¾
July 7-30s	104¾
Gold	140
5-20s, 1867	107¾

—Gold has been excited and weak. The largely increased supply on the market has crippled the "bulls" in their efforts to keep up the premium against the natural downward tendency of the premium. The very conservative tone in the Senate upon questions of finance, and the understanding that the Secretary of the Treasury will take strong ground in favor of specie payments, have considerable effect in weakening the premium.

—The stock market continues excessively dull, and operators appear discouraged and tired of waiting. The quotations to-day do not indicate any improvement:

Michigan Southern	85½
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	83
Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago	93
Erie	71½
Chicago & Northwestern	74¾

—The official monthly statement of the Bank of Pittsburgh for December, contrasted with the several items of the November report, exhibits the following changes:

	Nov. 1.	Dec. 1.	
Loans	$1,166,863 51	$1,180,444 07	Dec. 493 44
U. S. Bonds	832,933 59	832,933 59	
Real Estate	84,877 46	82,369 01	Dec. 1,818 43
Mortgages, &c	33,333 00	32,700 00	Dec. 3,941 31
Due by Banks	53,767 32	68,990 20	Inc. 15,222 97
Cash	192,054 13	165,711 61	Dec. 26,300 52
Deposits	1,295,890 00	1,260,997 83	Dec. 34,892 17
Capital Stock	1,180,200 00	1,160,950 00	Inc. 10,350 00
Circulation	250,250 00	239,063 83	Dec. 11,552 88
Unp'd Div. &c	7,887 57	22,886 57	Inc. 14,889 00
Due to Banks	4,340 10	4,340 10	Inc. 22 22
Deposits	1,022,509 38	1,046,922 37	Inc. 24,232 99

—The following shows the totals of the average of the leading items of the Philadelphia Banks for the past and previous week:

	Last Week.	This Week.	
Capital	$18,017,100	$18,017,100	
Loans	51,159,489	51,214,430	Inc $ 53,945
Specie	622,824	716,107	Dec. 6,238
Legal Tenders	15,220,511	15,785,820	Dec. 556,691
Due from Banks	4,674,836	4,725,792	Inc. 52,296
Due to Banks	5,741,262	5,868,998	Inc. 127,736
Deposits	34,019,288	34,317,985	Inc. 798,717
Circulation	10,863,206	10,846,819	Dec. 16,387
Clearings	31,009,962	25,262,679	Dec. 5,716,383
Balances	2,885,562	2,254,489	Dec. 631,076

—At Cincinnati, the *Gazette* of yesterday reports more activity in monetary circles. Clearing was unusually heavy, especially by the pork packing interest, and the demand for loans was more active and pressing. Paper was, as usual, taken from depositors at 9@12 per cent up to a certain limit graduated by the value of their accounts, but in the open market 15@18 per cent. was obtained for first-class paper. The gain in currency last week is fast being reduced, and if the weather is favorable for hog packing the next few weeks all the available capital will be wanted for moving the hog crop. Call loans are in demand at 10 per cent.

—The Savannah National Bank, of Savannah, Ga., to-day voluntarily resigned its privilege as a depository of Government funds, and applied to withdraw its securities as such.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS,

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 4, 1867. }

Trade in the general markets to-day was very dull, without change worthy of being noted.

The receipts of some of the leading articles of produce, per river and rail, since our last, were as follows: Flour, 1,466 bbls; apples, 851 bbls; cheese, 11 boxes; corn, 62 sacks; wheat, 179 sacks; rye, 596 sacks; oats, 255 sacks; butter, 31 packages, and bulk meats in loose pieces 4,655 pieces.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

APPLES—Dried are nominal, ranging from $2 25@4 00 ₩ bbl, as to quality.

BUTTER—Choice table butter is sold readily at 35@ 40c ₩ lb.

EGGS—Scarce and in demand at 30@32c ₩ dozen.

CHEESE—We quote Goshen at 18c; factory at 17c and Hamburg at 15@16c ₩ lb.

BACON—Trade moderate at 19@20c for sugar cured hams; 12¼c for shoulders and 14½c for sides.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples—In the country they were retailing at 7½@8½c ₩ lb, as to quality. Packers are paying 7@8c ₩ lb.

LARD—Sales reported at 13¾c ₩ lb.

LARD OIL—We note sales of No. 1 lard oil in large lots at $1 10, and in small lots at $1 12 ₩ gal. No. 2 in large lots 85c, and in small lots at 88c ₩ gal.

POTATOES—From first hands we quote peach blows at 90@$1 00 ₩ bush, and from store at $1 00@1 10 ₩ bush. Jersey sweets are selling at $3 00@3 50 ₩ bbl.

HAY—From country wagons loose timothy hay is selling at $18@22 ₩ ton. We quote baled hay at $22@ 24 ₩ ton.

CORN—Prime old shelled corn is selling from Elevator at $1 18@1 20 ₩ bushel. New ear from first hands is quoted at 95c@$1 ₩ bush. Demand light.

OATS—Sales from first hands were made at 65@66c ₩ bushel, as to quality. Sales from store at 70c ₩ bushel. Receipts are moderate and demand fair.

RYE—There is very little demand at $1 45@1 50 ₩ bush.

BARLEY—Spring has been selling at $1 55, and fall at $1 60 ₩ bush.

WHEAT—There is very little doing outside of the millers who are amply supplied with red winter at $2 45@2 50, and white at $2 55@2 60 ₩ bush. No sales reported.

FEED AND CORN MEAL—At the mills shorts are selling at $1 60 ₩ hundred, and middlings at $2 50 ₩ hundred. The prices at the Washington Street mills are $1 30, wholesale, for corn meal; $1 40 for corn and oats, ₩ hundred, $2 50; chop corn, ₩ hundred, $2 50; corn bran, ₩ hundred, $1 50; barley shorts, ₩ hundred, $2 75, and barley flour, ₩ hundred, $4 25.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Receipts are improving. We quote at $5 25@5 50 ₩ hundred.

FLOUR—There was a fair business done. Stocks of choice brands light. The only demand is for choice brands. Low grades are in much easier feet and sell at nominal prices. We have the following report of prices from T. C. Jenkins' wholesale flour dealer, at the checkered front, No. 273 Liberty street:

Jenkins' Snow Flake, $12 50 Stark and Crescent
Jenkins's Lilly Mills 11 00 ... Mills ... 10 00
Favorite Brand ..... 10 75 Forest ... 9 75
Crossett and Sears's ... Wells street ... 10 00
Best ... 10 25 Wade ... 9 75

Groceries.

Sugars firm at our quotations. Coffee dull. Teas weak. Molasses quiet. Shipments for this port have been made at New Orleans, of molasses and sugar, which will arrive as soon as the water will permit. Prices will range high.

We quote:

COFFEE—Old Government Java, 37c; Laguayra, 26@ 27c; Rio, choice 26c; prime, 25c; good, 23c; roasting, 21@22c.

SUGARS—Porto Rico, 14@14½c; Cuba, 13@14c; Sugar House, 11½@12½c; Granulated, 17½c; Powdered, 17½c; Crushed, 17½c; A Coffee, 16½c; B do, 16½c; extra C, 15c; C 15½.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, ——; Porto Rico, 79@ 80c; Cuba, 80@82c; Demerara, 85c.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90c@ $ 1 85; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 25@2 00; Japan, $1 25; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 10½@11c; Rangoon, 9½@10½c.

VINEGAR—Pure white wine vinegar, in original packages, 75c; common 25@30c.

SPICES—Pepper, 35c; Cloves, 45c; Cassia, 75c; Nutmegs, $1 60; Cassia, 75c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 10c; Babbett's, 12c; Oakley's, 15c.

CANDLES—Sperm, 45c.

LARD OIL—Proctor & Gamble extra No. 1 Lard Oil $1 18.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 28c for full weight.

INDIGO—Madras 90@$1 50; Manilla 95c@$1 45.

BAR LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—13c.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY MORNING, December 5, 1867. }

Crude oil—The market has ruled quiet and dull, operators being wide apart in their opinions in regard to the price of oil. The result was the sales made were barely worth noticing. The supply of oil on the street is by no means large, and the Eastern markets were reported as follows: Philadelphia P. L. St. to White, 22½c; S. W., 22½c; Crude, 16½c. New York, P. L. St, to White, 24c; S. W., 25c. Crude, 17c. Oil City dispatches were unfavorable for holders. The market was dull at 19@20 per ₩ bbl. The weather was cold, with sixteen inches of water in the channel.

CRUDE in our market was very dull. We have seldom outlined less disposition to operate, and shipping rates were far barrels returned, 6½c, and 7c for bulk. The only sale reported was 125 bbls at 6½c, packages returned.

REFINED OIL was a drug, nobody desirous of investing at the present prices. The market is overstocked here and elsewhere. The only sale that came under our notice being 1050 bbls S W Philadelphia, December, at 25c ₩ gallon, a limited day's business, but all that we could discover to-day.

TITUSVILLE, PA.

From the circular of J. A. Coutants, dated November 28th, we learn that the market for crude oil has ruled steady the last week at $2 00@2 20 on the cars at Petroleum Center, Oil City, Pithole, Shaffer's, Miller Farm and Titusville. The majority of sales were at $2 10. The market closes weak to-day at a decline of 10c. The sales in the last week amount to 21,500 bbls, as follows: Petroleum Center 7,000; New York market. Two dollars are freely offered for 42 gallons delivered in the tanks for storage. There is in the oil regions 288,800 bbls iron tankage to be filled, and taking being built for 175,000 bbls more. This with the new outlet, the Allegheny Railroad running from Oil City to Pittsburgh, which opened December 1st, with ample carrying capacity of 4,000 barrels per day, making a steady demand for 20,000 barrels per day, will keep the market steady at about $3 through the next month. The amount of oil now on iron lines in the oil regions is estimated at 485,200 barrels. The present production is full 10,000 barrels per day and increasing. A large number of new wells will be tested in the next ten days. A 500 barrel flowing well has been struck within the last week on Shaffer Run, one and a half miles from Oil City.

The shipments of oil over the Farmers' Railroad from Petroleum Center and over the Oil Creek Railroad from Boyd Farm, Pioneer, Shaffer and Titusville, since January 1st, amount to 955,970 barrels:

To New York	596,038 bbls.
To Cleveland	13,435
To other points	326,494
Total	935,970

Oil City Oil Market.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

OIL CITY, December 3, 1867.

Crude quiet at $2 10@2 20, delivered in Oil City, $2 30 on Broad Gauge, and $2 35 on Allegheny cars. Prices steady. Weather cold with occasional flurries of snow. River stationary.

The first train arrived from Pittsburgh at 11:45 last night. The first oil was loaded by Lockhart & Frew, at 9:45 this morning; the train left with twenty-one cars of oil.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.... WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, December 7, 1867. }

Pig Iron and Bloom Market.

Business in raw irons has been light since our last report. Receipts have also been limited. Favorite brands of standard forge pig are scarce and held at relatively high figures, thereby compelling consumers to adopt medium and common grades in mixture. Trade in manufactured irons is very much depressed and prices so low as to require the most rigid economy in purchases of raw stock.

Transactions for the Past Two Weeks.

	Nov. 23.	Nov. 30.
Bituminous Coal Smelted	3,185 tons.	680 tons.
Anthracite	200 "	200 "
Charcoal	95 "	"
Allegheny Coke	220 "	"
	4,491	1,055
Blooms	140 tons	40 tons

Being a falling off in this week's sales of 2,436.

The operations for the month of November were 14,114 tons, as follows:

Pig Iron and Blooms--Sales for November

	Blooms, tons.	P. Iron, tons.
November 2	60	2,502
November 9	80	2,087
November 16	20	2,566
November 23	140	4,491
November 30	60	1,665
	360	14,171

Anthracite.

100 tons No. 2 Anthracite.....$42 00—cash.
50 tons Red Short.....40 00—6 mos.
50 tons Grey Forge.....40 00—6 mos.
30 tons Grey Forge.....42 00—4 mos.
50 tons No. 2 Foundry.....45 00—cash.

Bituminous Coal Smelted from L. S.

70 tons No. 1 Foundry.....$45 00—cash.
50 tons Open Grey, a fancy brand... 42 00—4 mos.
100 tons Open Grey, a fancy brand, to arrive.....40 00—5 mos.
200 tons Common Close Grey Forge.....35 00—cash.
100 tons Common Close Grey Forge.....37 00—cash.
100 tons Open Grey, delivered at furnaces, a fancy brand.....38 50—90 days
60 tons mixture with native.....41 00—5 mos.

Charcoal.

20 tons Forge.....$35 00—4 mos.
75 tons Forge, No. 1 extra.....38 00—cash.

Blooms.

30 tons No. 1 Juniata.....$95 00—cash.
10 tons No. 1 Juniata.....93 00—cash.

Iron Bars and Nails.

In the iron trade the long continued dullness and depression remains unbroken and unabated. The mills are runing partially, and only with such a force as will fill the few orders which are from time to time received. We learn that there is every prospect for a still further reduction in operations, if not an entire suspension, between now and the first of January, as there does not appear the remotest prospect for a revival of trade. Prices are unchanged.

Glass.

We learn that at least six window glass factories will, for the present, cease operations to-day, and that many more will close within the next ten days. At the present rate of sales, the stocks cannot be made in this market so as to compete with the Eastern and foreign trade, and as the workmen will make no concessions to a reduction of labor, as proposed by the manufacturers, the matter will be settled only at the end of a protracted lock-out. We continue our quotations of the past month, with a discount offered of from 35 to 55 per cent. on good sized lots from the card rates.

Hardware.

There is very little doing, and the season may be considered ended. Our merchants are well supplied with all descriptions, and are offering them at extremely low prices.

Copper, Steel and Tin.

In all branches of business coming under that head, there continues a general dullness and a gradual falling off of orders. The same condition of affairs exists all over the country and in the foreign markets. We have no change to note in prices.

Miscellaneous.

The lumber business continues fair from yards, and the business during the season has proved much better than was anticipated. Prices remain as last quoted with a fair amount of all kinds of lumber in the yards, and nothing coming forward to any scarce. The trade in leather and hides is only moderately active and entirely void of speculative feeling. Provisions unchanged. Owing to the approach of holidays the market for confectionary, foreign fruits and nuts is more active. Messrs. Reznor & Bros. report a fair trade. Mat and Valencia raisins, figs, oranges and lemons are coming in in good receipt. Canned fruits are rather dull of sale with no large amount on the market, and in the Eastern cities nearly all are already reported sold from first hands. In other articles of trade, this market presents no new feature worthy of special remark.

IRON AND NAILS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, December 5, 1867. }

The following are the current prices:

PRICES FOR PUDDLED IRON.

Common Bar sizes	4 @ 4½
Horse Shoe	5 @ 5½
Heavy Band	4½@5
Hoop and Light Band	5 @ 5½
Round and Square	4½@5
Sheet	5 @ 5½
Half Oval and Half Round	4½@5½
Boiler Plate	5 @ 5½
Tank Iron	5 @ 5½

All sheets over 28 in. wide, 4c ₩ lb extra.

Flat Rails, 2 inches and over, 4½@5 c
T. Rail, 12, 16, 20 and 25 lbs to the yard.....4½@5 c
Nail Rods.....5½@6 c
Coal Screen Iron.....5½@6 c

	American.	Charcoal Juniata.
Sheet Iron, 10 to 17	7	9
" 18 to 24	8	10
" 25 to 26	9¼	11
" 27	10	12

All sheets over 28 in. wide, 4c ₩ lb extra.

NAILS.

10d to 60d Nails, Pennsylvania.....7 75
Clinching and Brads.....$4 50 $d fine.....7 75
4d and 5d.....6 75 $d fine.....7 75
6d and 7d.....6 00 $ in lining.....9 25
8d and 9d.....6 25 $ in lining.....9 25
10d.....6 75 Cut Spikes.....7 75

Casing Nails—6d, $6 50; 8d, $6 25; 10d, $6 00; 12d, $6 00; 20d, $6 00.

Finishing Nails—6d, $7 00; 8d, $6 75; 10d, $6 50; 12d, $6 50; 20d, $6 50.

Barrel Nails—¾ inch, $8 25; 1 inch, $7 50; 1¼ inch, $7 00; 1½ inch, $6 75; 1¾ inch, $6 50; 2 inch, $6 25.

Tobacco Nails—6d, $6 50; 8d, $6 25; 10d, $6 75.

ABATEMENT—12½c per keg off, in lots of 100 kegs and upwards.

HEAVY HARDWARE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, Dec. 5, 1867. }

The following are the current prices of Lowis, Oliver & Phillips, manufacturers:

Carriage Bolts.
1¼ inch to 1 inch long by ¾ inch diameter...$2 00 $ 100
1¼ inch to 1 inch long by ⅞ in diameter... 2 00 to 2 50
1¼ inch to 9 inch long by ¾ in diameter... 2 20 to 2 70
2 inch to

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$4 00
One copy, for twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

ON the first day of the session there was a significant vote in the House of Representatives. The Hon. E. B. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, offered a resolution declaring that "in the present financial condition of the country no more appropriations of public lands should be made to States or corporations for the purposes of building railroads, and all such lands should be held for private sale and actual settlement." Objection being made to the immediate consideration of this it was laid over by a vote of 71 to 66. There is no doubting that the resolution was aimed directly at the Pacific Railroads and schemes growing out of them for subsidies, for procuring which powerful combinations have been formed. There has been great looseness in the way the nation's patrimony has been granted to these and other schemes, and if gratuities are to be continued at all, the grants should be better guarded and restricted within the bounds of reason. Good sense dictates that the public lands should be immediately made tributary to the payment of the national debt. The raid for subsidies will be made soon after Congress enters on the regular session. The people expect that wastefulness in this as well as in all other respects will cease.

THE FREE RAILROAD LAW AND THE NEXT LEGISLATURE.

A short time since in referring to the failures and disappointments which the advocates of a Free Railroad Law have experienced, we had occasion to say that they were due principally to unfriendly Railroad Committees in the Legislature. This fact has given to the canvass for the Speakership of the popular branch of the Legislature special interest, and drawn from the Hon. E. W. DAVIS, the most prominent candidate for the position, the following distinct and satisfactory pledge, in reply to a letter from Col. S. M. JACKSON, the member from Armstrong county:

PITTSBURGH, November 15, 1867.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your letter of yesterday, I have only to say: I am in favor of a liberal free railroad law. I consider the Republican party positively pledged in favor of the measure, by the action of the Williamsport Convention of June last.

If elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, I shall so constitute the Committees as to facilitate the speedy passage of a genuine, liberal and untrammeled general railroad law.

Yours, most truly, E. W. DAVIS.

Hon. S. M. JACKSON.

In publishing the above the Armstrong *Republican* takes occasion to make the following remarks:

Western Pennsylvania is deeply interested in this matter, and it is the duty of every Western member to rally to the support of Mr. DAVIS, who most positively pledges himself so to arrange the committee as to facilitate the passage of a Free Railroad Law. He is the only candidate for the office of Speaker who has it so identified with the interest of the West, and the West, if true to her interests, will give him a hearty support. Besides, Mr. DAVIS is a gentleman of ability and his long legislative experience eminently fits him for the position. A native Western Pennsylvanian, he has the right to expect and will receive, we trust, the support of the entire Western delegation.

To the above we will add that Col. DAVIS has made to us and others equally distinct and satisfactory declarations, and we have no reason to suppose that his pledges will not be fully redeemed.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

The time honored custom of Puritan New England has at length become national. It had indeed been adopted by several of the other States at the recommendation of their Executives. But it is perhaps to the deeper sense of our dependence upon the Almighty, and the clearer view of our obligations to Him, resulting from the necessities and perils, the defeats and the successes incident to the recent stupendous insurrection and civil war, that we are indebted for the extension of this—hitherto a State observance—to the dimensions of a national festival. The genius of our institutions which recognizes the right of the private citizen to regulate all matters pertaining to religion according to his own convictions, and giving to each the utmost freedom consistent with the interest and happiness of the community and the purposes of good government, does not allow that this shall be established with' legal sanction and obligation as with respect to the Sabbath day; but a free people in the possession of the blessings of an open Bible and a christianity the most evangelical and pure on the face of the earth, will never need to be driven to the altars of its faith and the shrines of its worhip by the lash of the magistrate or the fear of penalty for violated law. And thus the annual recurrence of the recommendation is looked for not as necessitating but as simply suggesting a day which may be uniformly accepted by the already willing people so that at one time there may go up unto God the praise and thanksgiving of the millions who bless the most high for the glorious land—the noble heritage which has fallen to them.

To the nation at large the year has not been without its troubles and difficulties. The clouds have sometimes gathered in the skies, and the sun has but dimly lighted the way. In uncertainty and perplexity men upon whom rested grave responsibilities have groped along the ways, and earnestly looked and longed for clearer light, but even as they went forward in trust and hope—in true and firm faith in Him who loves the right—a real progress was made, elevation and advancement in that which pertains to a noble humanity was secured. In a small part of our domain, "the pestilence that walketh in darkness and that wasteth at noonday" has spread the pall, and ladened the bier, and enriched the grave yards—has made dark shadows to cross the threshhold of many a happy home; and many a heart has bled, and many a cheek been wet with tears, as death has done his cruel work. As we recall the past, some things there are perhaps, which the man, the citizen, the patriot would lament; some which he would fain amend or retrieve; some he would desire could be blotted from history. But in the general balancing the months of which the year is made up, it is unquestionable that there will be found grounds upon which may be based the most hearty thanksgiving. Our institutions, so recently imperilled, have stood the tests of the year, and stand in all their invulnerability and impregnable strength. The fears which were entertained of financial ruin have not been realized and the credit of the country has been abundantly sustained. The stringency which to some extent has effected financial circles, has as yet resulted in no marked distress or public panic, and the vast resources of the country, its marvelous recuperative energy, give confident assurance that by wise legislation and careful management these difficulties will speedily be overcome. In the lull which has partially obtained in the business and manufacturing activities of our own State and of the Union, it must be gratifully recorded, no severe distress or suffering has fallen upon the "sons and daughters of toil." A beneficent Providence has also "crowned the year with His goodness and His paths drop fatness." The golden cars have been gathered, and the harvest home sung with gladness, and our garners are filled with food. An autumnal season of unexampled mildness and beauty is making fewer the days during which the poor of the land are most in danger of privation and suffering, and even the calamity of the day has served to show how promptly the activity of Christian sympathy and love will afford the needed aid. The great questions of the day are such as pertain to the permanency of institutions which have proved abundantly fruitful in blessings to man—the ennobling and elevation of man—the equalization of rights and privileges, and the extension of knowledge of all truth and the highest moral and religious culture.

In the progress of the past, even in a temporary repulse, men of action and of faith are encouraged to gird themselves for the victory in the future, and all thankfully behold the dawnings of the day when the right shall be everywhere triumphant. The check may be accepted, but while looking for its cause, they are gathering power and momentum to sweep away the obstructions, and to move forward with accelerated speed.

With relations of the most peaceful character abroad, with plenty and increasing wealth, with a real and material prosperity, with the prospect of a firmer bond and a stronger unity between the different parts of our vast domain in the breaking down of fostered wrongs and the gift of withheld rights, with the prevalence of agitations simply designed to be in the interest of humanity and progress and elevation, with manifold evidences of God's care and protection, we may thankfully remember our obligations, and from the myriad sanctuaries, let the song of praise and the gushing thankfulness of our whole people, go up unto Him who is our only Sovereign and LORD—the merciful and loving Father of All.

A RAILROAD FROM WASHINGTON TO THE LAKES.

A Convention was held on the 22d ult., at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, in behalf of filling two gaps in existing Railroad lines, for the purpose, it is alleged, of having a continuous Railroad line from Washington City to Lake Erie. We have not a word of objection to this zigzag line, which would be made up by the use of portions of some dozen of existing Railroads. It shows that if the Pennsylvania Railroad will act "the dog in the manger" with the Connellsville, that other routes can be devised to reach the Lake trade. We would especially call the attention of those interested in the Chicago and Cleveland lines of Railroads terminating at this city to this fact. Do these gentlemen intend to stand aloof and let this Lake trade and travel be diverted to other routes? We do not believe that the history of the world can show another instance of so flagrant a violation of the rights of the general public, and especially of those locally interested, as is the case of the Connellsville Road. Southwestern Pennsylvania is to be bottled up, while every other section, North and South, are to open up their gates. And now the bottling process is to be extended to Pittsburgh and the region west of it, unless it debouches through the Valley of the Juniata.

Of course the Pennsylvania Railroad favors this new route. The Cumberland Valley, the Broadtop, the Tyrone and Clearfield, and the Philadelphia and Erie, are controlled by this monopoly, constituting two-thirds of the entire route on her own property. From our stand-point of a free railroad law, we do not complain, but then we insist that the natural channel, the nearest and best route, shall not be blocked up, in order to force railroads over mountains and across valleys. Leave all routes open to railroad competition, and we will abide the result. Before Washington, the Eastern terminus of both these routes, had been selected as the National Capital, the route by the vallies of the Potomac and the Youghiogheny had been surveyed at the private expense of GEORGE WASHINGTON, to determine its adaptation to a great avenue to the West.

What sins have the people of Bedford, Somerset, Fayette, Westmoreland and Allegheny counties committed, that all these must be punished, in order to benefit other sections? Why shall railroads already constructed, and having their Western terminus at Erie, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago, and their Eastern at Pittsburgh, not be permitted to use the Valley of the Youghiogeny to send freight and passengers to our National Capital? Why shall millions of tons of coal, iron ore, lumber, etc., along this route, be forever excluded from market? Why shall the twelve millions of loyal citizens in this great Western Valley not be permitted to select the nearest and shortest route to the National Capital? These and a thousand other questions that might be asked, must shortly receive an answer. We hope that those interested in rival but not less favorable routes, will not relax their efforts until they have accomplished their purpose. We especially ask that the managers of our Western Railroads will look to these movements.

THE IMPEACHMENT BUSINESS.

It is probable that we could not state a more significant fact than that, up to this time, so far as our observation extends, not a representative Republican paper, or indeed a Republican paper of any kind, has come out in unqualified support of the proposition to impeach the President on the testimony reported by the Judiciary Committee, while most of them strongly oppose such a course. This, we think, may be taken as accurately reflecting the Republican sentiment at the present moment. The terse report of the minority, signed by Messrs. WILSON and WOODBRIDGE, we apprehend, is pretty generally approved by the popular judgment. There is to-day no more respect or favor for ANDREW JOHNSON than there was when he was at the height of his treachery; but his impeachment on the testimony adduced, by no means necessarily follows. The gravity of the question, as a precedent, and its effect on our commercial and financial interests, is not lost sight of by the general public; and the Republican masses especially are alive to it, not less in the light of rigid justice than what is expedient to be done. If justice, the public good and honor of the nation demand the impeachment of the President, then let it be done. But this must first be shown, and so clearly, too, that it will be manifest to all the people, so that if the President be impeached, the act will receive the approval of the intelligent and conscientious portion of the American people. It should never be thought of as a mere party measure, and only to meet a high public necessity. That such a necessity actually exists we are compelled to say has not yet been made to appear.

THE ANTILLES OF THE WEST INDIES.

The news of the negotiation for the purchase of the Danish Antilles by the United States is said to have been unfavorably received by the authorities in Cuba, but with great satisfaction by the people of the Island, who regard it as the opening to Cuba of the door of hope. The dissatisfaction of the local Spanish authorities is said to be shared in England, where the report that the United States is about to gain a foothold in the West Indies is not at all relished. Touching this negotiation, it may be said that it is extremely doubtful now what Congress will do. The resolution adopted by the House on the second day or third of the session pronouncing against any more purchases, would seem to signify that no more money need be expected. It is not improbable that financial considerations may induce JONATHAN to forego for the present the pleasure which this little acquisition would afford him. Concerning the value of St. Thomas, the New York *Herald* says:

With reference to St. Thomas, that which gives value to the island is its magnificent geographical position. It is the most easterly island of the whole West Indies. It is the great rendezvous for all vessels bound to the Spanish main and to the West Indies. It has the most accessible harbor of all the West India Islands. It controls the route of all the vessels which will in the future come from Europe to Asia and the Pacific coast of North America via Panama. It dominates Jamaica, Hayti, Cuba, Trinidad and Porto Rico. It gives us what has long been one of our greatest wants, a safe and capacious naval, army and merchant marine depot. This Danish island are to be added the ideal one of a splendid harbor, deep, land locked, always accessible with docks all built and coaling stations ready for use. The narrow entrance to the port scarcely exceeds a quarter of a mile in width, and the bold rise of the land on either side presents the natural advantages for the construction of fortifications at little expense. One million of dollars well expended should make the harbor as impregnable as Gibraltar, while a small work built upon the hill back of the town would, by a plunging fire, sink any ironclad which might pass the outer forts.

MR. JENCKES'S Civil Service Bill is likely to be adopted during this session of Congress, men of all parties being desirous of putting an end to the present system of appointments by making eligibility to public offices dependent upon stringent tests and competitive examination as guarantees for the integrity and fitness of the respective candidates. The *New York American*, heretofore actively discussing it from an intellectual and statesmanlike point of view, has this morning, which has been published in pamphlet form and placed in the hands of members of both Houses, an interesting review of the recent freedom from the usual vituperative charges and sensational invectives. Senator Patterson, of New Hampshire, is preparing a bill to do for the foreign service what that of Mr. Jenckes proposes to do for the home civil service, and the able articles now appearing in leading papers all over the country in favor of this reform is calculated to hasten its adoption.

So says a Washington dispatch. Having advocated fitness as the sole test to which applicants for office should be subjected, and that this test should be rigidly enforced through a searching inquiry into the mental and moral qualifications of applicants for official station, high and low, we need not say that we rejoice that there is so good a prospect this reform. If all the revenue officers in the land had been selected with an eye to capacity and faithfulness, and only after these qualifications had been established as satisfactorily as careful business men require the qualifications of a confidential agent to be certified to them, many millions of dollars would have been saved to the National Treasury during the last year. The day that sees this new test go into operation will be the commencement of a new era in the history of the Republic.

THE attempt to galvanize the impeachment project into a party measure will fail—has already failed. The proposition to set in motion the machinery of party for such an object was itself as reprehensible as anything that Mr. JOHNSON has done. The impeachment of a President is a proceeding that should enlist no feeling, no purpose, no influence, not in exact accord with justice, the gravity of the occasion, and the consequences that may be the result. The court is the very highest in the land—one that seldom convenes. Any attempt to pollute its proceedings with party-ism would evince a spirit worthy of the severest condemnation, and those who in this instance have proposed it have betrayed just what unworthy leaders they are. If the court which must try the President, if he is tried at all, can be controlled by King Caucus and run by party machinery, then any court in the land can be. It is impossible to conceive of greater corruption than this would be. If Mr. JOHNSON, or any man, really should be impeached, it should be the solemn act of the great Constutional Tribunal which alone can do it; and any attempt to overawe or in any manner interfere with its judgment, or influence its decision, would be equally an attempt to pollute the very fountain of law and justice. The proposition to set in motion party machinery affords the best evidence in the world that there is not enough fact in the case to insure conviction; that law and justice must be set aside and the proceedings brought down to the level of party politics, under the control of unscrupulous leaders.

As we have said, we rejoice that the attempt has failed. If ANDREW JOHNSON is worthy of impeachment, let him be impeached; but let it be done with decency, and let it be the solemn act of the highest tribunal known in the Republic.

The French in Rome.

The French cleared out the prisons of Rome and put an end to the reign of cruel terror which the ecclesiastics had inaugurated, but the fear of insurrection was still entertained. But it may prove that the delight of the Pope's defenders was premature. If Napoleon succeeds in getting the other powers to share the responsibility with him of disposing of the temporal power, there is little doubt as to its fate. The signatories to the treaty of Vienna would certainly decline to sustain the Pope in a position of perpetual antagonism to Italy. His Holiness declares he is above all kings and potentates, and their counsels are unheeded, and he forces on Europe the simple solution—temporal power or no temporal power. The veteran French liberal, Edgar Quinet, puts the whole position in a few lines when he says:

"The problem that you have undertaken to solve in Italy is simply impossible. It is the quadrature of the circle. On the one hand you undertake the conversion of mediæval theocracy into a modern state, and thereby you destroy the new nation; on the other, you insist that Italy shall become a united nation, and this a body planted in her very vitals, a foreign power undermining her existence, and a nucleus around which her enemies may actually league themselves for her destruction. Here the contradiction is no less glaring."

A Philadelphia Literary Enterprise.

The present building occupied by the Philadelphia Mercantile Library Company, which numbered in 1866, 6,167 members, proving inadequate for the uses of the association, they have purchased a lot and buildings on Fourth street near Chestnut, the dimensions of the lot being eighty by three hundred and one feet. The buildings they propose to adapt to the uses of the company, and intend placing all their operations on the first floor. The Literary Association require $100,000 to start them free of debt in their new location, and notwithstanding the persistent efforts of the Directors, aided by personal friends, they have only been able to secure subscriptions to the amount of $10,000. In this state of affairs, the association have appointed a committee of leading citizens to solicit and receive subscriptions, and there is a flattering prospect that the sum needed will be raised. What has become of the projected building of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Pittsburgh?

Artesian Well Excitement.

In the agricultural districts in the neighborhood of Chicago there exists a mania for well digging, superinduced no doubt by the drying up of the natural wells and streamlets during the past season. Farmers everywhere are sinking holes with a persistency of effort that would do credit to a Pennsylvania oil borer. A citizen of Jefferson county, for instance, sunk a well to the depth of twelve hundred feet and found the bottom as dry as the surface. He bethought him of an augur, and bored to a depth of twenty-three feet more, when he struck a rock. When about to give it up in despair, he bought he would soften the rock by pouring water upon it. The next morning the augur penetrated the rock through to the soft clay, and presently a copious flood of water made known its presence. Since then the spring is increasing its flow, and the fortunate farmer is selling the water at five cents a barrel.

An Eminent Englishman on American Affairs.

English accuracy concerning American affairs is completely illustrated by a recent English book—one of the best works on the English Constitution, we are told—by Mr. Bagshot. Among other things Mr. Bagshot informs the English public that the Congress of the United States formerly, like the English Parliament, had control of the public money, and could grant or withhold supplies at its option. But this has been all overthrown by the late war. It has been decided, says Mr. Bagshot, that the President has power to emit paper money without calling on Congress at all; Mr. Lincoln actually carried on the first part of the late war in that way, and the power to issue greenbacks was held to belong to him, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army! This, we are assured, is not the blunder of a newspaper writer in a hurry, the author being "a very eminent man."

THERE is a way open to the Democracy to solve their troubles about a Presidential candidate, if they will only embrace it. If they will consent to unite on Dan Rice the Showman, the thing will be done in a twinkling. Dan is fairly on the track, and this fact may clear up the mystery of Seymour's sudden disappearance from the field. Horatio is too cunning a fellow to suppose he could for an instant stand before Dan. It is understood that, in view of Rice's up-looming proportions—sometimes on his head and sometimes on his feet, first on one horse and then on half a dozen—Pendleton begins to tremble in his boots. By the Girard *Spectator*, published at Rice's home, we are assured—

"The Colonel's ability and availability are unqualifiedly indorsed by many even to the exclusion of the name of the head of the ticket in our columns. Other journals speak of him with cordial respect, and it is only the extreme organs of the extremist wings that condemn that Democratic sage, and with characteristic blackguardism personally abuse him."

And we are furthermore assured that "a large number of Dan Rice Clubs have already been formed." It must be evident to the Democracy that Dan is their man!

THE exports of domestic produce from the United States for the quarter ending September 30, 1866, were in value, $8,000,000; for the corresponding quarter 1867, they were $92,000,000, an increase of $12,000,000. This increase in the export trade is in the direction of the movement which took place during the year ending June 30, 1866, which fell off during the year ending June 30, 1867, and which in the quarter mentioned, has once more resumed its ascendency.

HORACE GREELEY says that when the Whigs nominated Harrison for President in 1840, John Tyler, who was an arrant supporter of Henry Clay, indulged in a bit of wrapping, and that most tempting bait (Tyler) the Whig candidate for Vice President.

Mr. Greeley but repeats a bit of history well authenticated. To those who can remember as far back as 1839 the crying fit of Tyler will be no news; and thousands there were who sympathised with him on account of Mr. Clay's defeat.

SAYS a New York letter: Another sugar firm was obliged to suspend to-day—Messrs. Harris & Dayton. Other houses were reported to be in difficulty, but the reports could not be authenticated. In many cases the statements that are put forth affecting the standing of particular firms, are sheer fiction. For example, one house that was in everybody's mouth in the fore part of the day, as having failed, does not happen to be indebted to anybody to the extent of a single dollar!

WHEN the jubilant Republicans of New York were receiving the cheerful returns from the Presidential election of 1860, and each dispatch brought reports of larger majorities than its predecessor, one enthusiastic individual, who had not been too abstemious, unable to contain himself longer, sprang to his feet and cried: "Mr. chairman and gentlemen, I move that we make the whole d—d thing unanimous."

THE Court of Appeals of New Jersey have virtually awarded the Monopoly between New York and Philadelphia to the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company. Such at least is the import of a late decision by that Court.

WESTON THE PEDESTRIAN.

HIS ARRIVAL IN CHICAGO.

Ovation by the Citizens---Speech by the Hero.

The fast walker, Weston, had a great ovation at the hands of the fast people of Chicago. His was undoubtedly the greatest pedestrian feat on record—walking thirteen hundred miles in twenty-five days! In reply to an address of welcome, he thanked the Chicagoans for the attentions paid him, and said "he could walk just as long at this rate as he had a mind to," and that he "could walk one hundred miles in twenty-four hours." He met his wife and child at the Opera House, and dined with them in a private room. He attended a Thanksgiving concert in the afternoon, and appeared upon the stage dressed in his walking costume. He made a speech here, in which he detailed the circumstances under which his great walking feat was undertaken. His main object was to relieve himself from pecuniary embarrassment. His first proposition was that he could make twelve hundred miles in thirty consecutive days. Nothing was said about excluding the Sabbath. When he excluded the Sundays, he said it was with the understanding that the hundred miles in one day was not to be attempted. He said "it is a cruel thing to put a task of that kind into a walk of twenty-six days, for no rest of twenty-four hours would fit any man on earth to continue on a journey over such roads as he had been obliged to travel, within the last month. Had he succeeded, as he earnestly—most earnestly tried—it might have been better for him; but there was a time when every man would *fag out*. A man would go as far as his powers of endurance permitted, but no further. A man might walk on until he dropped from exhaustion, but when he recovered he was not injured and could do the same thing the following day. People argued that because he failed in his hundred mile walk, and walked seventy-two miles the next day, that he might have done it if he liked. He would have been very happy to have *liked* to have done it, if he could." He talked of the difficulties he had to encounter on the way, and referred especially to the Indiana mud and sand—the latter being in some places knee deep. He begged to be excused from talking, as he would rather go out and walk fifty or sixty miles that afternoon than say as much as he had said. He could do it easier, as he really felt one hundred per cent. better than when he left Portland, and actually weighed two pounds more! In the evening Weston made another speech at the Opera House, mainly in regard to the difficulties he had to encounter, especially in Indiana, where the roads were so horribly bad and the miles so terribly long. He was told, for instance, that the distance from Calumet to Chicago was forty-four miles; but after walking four hours, at the rate of four miles an hour, he asked another intelligent Hoosier the distance to Chicago, and was told that it was forty-seven miles! In this way he had miles stacked on to him from the time he left Portland until he arrived in Chicago, and he had thus been thwarted in every effort to make one hundred miles inside of twenty-four hours. He intended, now, however, to look over his route and time table, and make an estimate in regard to that matter. He had received many anonymous letters, threatening him with death if he entered Chicago inside the time allowed him, but he had overcome all difficulties, won the race, and was proud that he had not disappointed the expectations of his friends. The actual distance walked was 1,316 miles, instead of 1,237 as he expected.

The Presidency in the West.

Evidently intelligent and candid correspondents of the New York *Tribune*, in the West, write as follows about public opinion and the next Presidency: The feeling is very decidedly in favor of General Grant; it might, indeed, be said to be unanimous, for those who are not in sympathy with the movement are silent, so far as any public expression is concerned. To the question, why do you favor Gen. Grant? the almost uniform answer is, because he is the only man we can elect. Deny him any available with any other man, and we had better risk him than suffer defeat. But there are a few men who earnestly desire the nomination of Gen. Grant. They say the single question before the Republican party is construction; every other question is subordinate to that in vital interest to the party and the nation; that in seeking a President we should first find a man who thoroughly and heartily believes in the Congressional plan, and second, one who may be elected. Gen. Grant fills each requirement. The Republican party would commit treason to itself and the country to take any action that would hazard reconstruction. If we do not rescue the blacks now, we never can. Among the men who hold thus are some of the best in the State.

Next to Gen. Grant, Mr. Chase is mentioned as the prominent candidate to be talked about, and to be talked of only with respect; but candor compels me to say that I have yet to meet the man, even among Mr. Chase's own friends, who thinks he can be nominated, or if nominated could be elected. Hundreds of the wealthy, the cultivated, the eminently respectable, find in Mr. Chase their first choice, but all acknowledge, so far as this observation goes, that their candidate is not a popular man within the meaning necessary to an election to the Presidency. Indeed it would be difficult to underrate his popularity with the masses; most, however, because the free trade interest of this country is making a powerful effort to break down American industry, and subject it to the competition of the pauper labor of Europe and foreign nations. We feel that we have undeveloped wealth and financial and pecuniary power, and that the assistance of the Government in enacting out its arms for revenue, is bound in all principles of justice to the necessity of taxing a portion of this wealth, and this industry and labor of America. We feel that the Democratic party at the present moment may be said to be in a perfect condition. The entire success of the Republican party is to save the life of the nation must be provided for. It must be honorably discharged or the nation lose her life. Reputation, sir, is a disgrace to individuals, repudiation is a disgrace to a nation. Repudiation, when the people of this country come to understand what it is, will never succeed, will never, in my opinion, be approved by the American people. The only way to prevent repudiation than by bringing our industries up to our resources and our financial power, and this can be done in a very few years by a just assistance at all times to the industrial portions of the country. We want no favors, no bounties for articles that can be produced at home, freedom from political jugglery, and a system of political rails. These sentiments impress upon me the necessity that all intelligent men should, as individuals and as public officers, give encouragement to our own resources. We must stop this contracting of foreign debt, by which we must be paid in coin. We must, as far as we can, rely upon ourselves for the payment of the debt, and not to foreign nations, because these nations must be paid in coin for what they sell us.

I do not propose to go into the consideration of this subject, but simply to allude to it because it is at the bottom of the action of National Workingmen's Conventions, representing the mining and manufacturing or any other of the industrial pursuits of the country.

Let there be no strife, then between us, and let us entertain a sense of justice to each other remembering that after all it is a contest between the Home and Foreign nations, and in that contest all should be united as much as if the contest were one of arms. We have a country of America, and the true patriot son would stand by the country shoulder to shoulder again it rebels that sought to overthrow the land. It is none the less important, if instead of being a contest of bayonets it is a contest waged by honest labor, by the true patriotism of the country.

I must not dwell further upon the objects of the National Workingmen's Convention, as I am not of that body. I have intended to give a plain and honest statement of the condition of the money market, and selling it at very low prices. Many overcoats had been sold in this city at from three dollars and fifty cents each. This price was really below the cost of the manufacture, and it was really a pecuniary necessity that the manufacturers could not pay a higher price for wool. He had in his room a communication from one of this profession for the purpose of "breaking the ice," as it was called, and hoped to hear from other gentlemen on the subject.

Mr. White, of Indiana, Pa., said he did not wish to have the expression of sentiment confined to Pennsylvania, and as he saw before him a gentleman who represented a large woolen growing district in Ohio, and whose views would be acceptable to the people of Pennsylvania, he called upon him for an address.

SPEECH OF HON. C. DELANO.

Mr. Delano spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman—Gentlemen who are interested in the industrial interests of the United States: I came to this city in obedience to an invitation of the President of the National Wool Growers' Association. I was informed by him that the Executive Committee of that Association was about to meet in this city, for the purpose of considering the interests and wants of the particular branch of industry which that Association represented. The Executive Committee have already met and acted upon the subject or subjects which were in contemplation, and I was informed that it was distinctly understood by the reportorial corps present I see here, that the general meeting of meeting of the citizens interested in the various branches of industry, and not as members of the Executive Committee of the National Wool Growers' Association. Mr. Chairman, I do not purpose to make known the substance of the action of said Executive Committee, because that action has relation to the facts and figures and grievances present are concerned in. We have declared in that action that the large national debt inflicted upon the country by the rebellion has created a financial necessity on the part of the Government to seek revenue by duties on imports. We have declared also that, as long as that necessity exists ought to be so levied and so adjusted as to give equally fair protection to all industrial pursuits, without favor to any one of the great interests. We do not at up our interest as superior to any other industrial interest. We do not claim for it any preference above other pursuits. We simply claim that we are a part of the great industrial interests of the nation, and that, as duties must be levied for revenue purposes, in the levying of those duties there should be given equality to all industrial interests, ours included. Equality is what we demand, and nothing popularly understood recognize in the past action of Congress by our action in the past. We have asked for protection to wool, and it has been regarded and protected as far as we demand for it protection now. We think, undoubtedly, that we have been long enough in the school of adversity to understand that justice, though tardy in her footsteps, has at last overtaken us, and that each one of the great subjects of legislation must be left alone, and at the same time say to the other, hands off. We do not intend to interfere with you in securing equal protection, but we ask the same from you. We desire to place ourselves, therefore, upon the broad and eclectic basis in reference to this subject. We feel ourselves entitled to it, and we feel that ours because the free trade interest of this country is making a powerful effort to break down American industry, and subject it to the competition of the pauper labor of Europe and foreign nations. We feel that we have undeveloped wealth and financial and pecuniary power, and that the assistance of the Government in enacting out its arms for revenue, is bound in all principles of justice to the necessity of taxing a portion of this wealth, and this industry and labor of America. We feel that the Democratic party at the present moment may be said to be in a perfect condition. The entire success of the Republican party is to save the life of the nation must be provided for. It must be honorably discharged or the nation lose her life. Reputation, sir, is a disgrace to individuals, repudiation is a disgrace to a nation. Repudiation, when the people of this country come to understand what it is, will never succeed, will never, in my opinion, be approved by the American people. The only way to prevent repudiation than by bringing our industries up to our resources and our financial power, and this can be done in a very few years by a just assistance at all times to the industrial portions of the country. We want no favors, no bounties for articles that can be produced at home, freedom from political jugglery, and a system of political rails. These sentiments impress upon me the necessity that all intelligent men should, as individuals and as public officers, give encouragement to our own resources. We must stop this contracting of foreign debt, by which we must be paid in coin. We must, as far as we can, rely upon ourselves for the payment of the debt, and not to foreign nations, because these nations must be paid in coin for what they sell us.

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TICKNOR & FIELDS have published a cheap pamphlet edition of Mr. Dickens's "American Notes," written in 1842, on occasion of his former visit here. They do it for the sake of circulating a book much talked of, and little known.

WOOL GROWERS.

ACTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Public Meeting at the Court House.

Discussion of the Tariff Question.

Protection to American Industry Asked For.

Speeches by Hon. Columbus Delano Gen. Harry White, Col. J. M. Cooper, Hon. T. J. Bigham, Dr. F. J. Lemoyne, Hon. R. M. Montgomery and Others.

In Wednesday's *Commercial* we published the proceedings of the Executive Committee of the National Wool Growers' Association, at their meeting held on Tuesday night at the Monongahela House. The Committee adjourned with the intention of reassembling on Wednesday in mass meeting, with such others interested in wool growing and wool manufacturing as might be present. The attendance was not large, and the hour of meeting was postponed until two o'clock in the afternoon.

In the meantime the Executive Committee met and elected the following officers:

President—Hon. Henry S. Randall, Courtland Village, N. Y.

Secretary—W. F. Greer, Painesville, Ohio.

Treasurer—A. L. Wilcox, Onandaigua, N. Y.

Delegate to Washington—Hon. M. Montgomery, Ohio.

THE DELEGATES PRESENT.

(It is proper here to state that the National Wool Growers' Association is an organization composed of two delegates from each of the State Associations. The following is a list of the delegates present from the several State Societies:

New York—Hon. Henry S. Randall, John D. Wing.

Vermont—Col. E. S. Stowell.

Ohio—Hon. Columbus Delano, Hon. R. M. Montgomery.

Pennsylvania—Dr. F. Julius Lemoyne, James Slocum.

West Virginia—Thomas Sweeny, Samuel Archer.

Illinois—A. M Garland, Samuel P. Boardman.

Wisconsin—Eli Sullson.

THE MASS MEETING.

At two o'clock, the Executive Committee, together with quite a number of other gentlemen representing various industrial interests, assembled in the room of the Court of Quarter Sessions.

On motion of Dr. F. J. Lemoyne, of Washington county, Hon. Henry S. Randall, President of the National Wool Growers' Association, was called to the chair, and W. F. Grier, Esq., of Painesville, Lake county, Ohio, was chosen Secretary.

A delegate asked for information in regard to the purposes of the meeting. He was not informed as to the precise object of the assemblage, and would like to be advised on the subject.

THE OBJECT EXPLAINED.

Dr. F. J. Lemoyne stated that the object was to hear public discussion in reference to the topics connected with the organization of the Wool Growers' Association—especially pertaining to the present agitation, for instruction and encouragement. With a view to opening the discussion, he would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the present low price of wool has resulted, not from any defect in the present tariff law, but from the protracted discussions in Congress, and the postponement and consequent delay, in addition to other causes, the Government has been throwing into the market a large amount of Army clothing, which, by reason of its early overcoats, had been sold in this country at three dollars and fifty cents each. This price was really below the cost of the manufacture, and it was really a pecuniary necessity that the manufacturers could not pay a higher price for wool. He had in his room a communication from one of this profession for the purpose of "breaking the ice," as it was called, and hoped to hear from other gentlemen on the subject.

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